

## NEWSLETTER

### Professor Laura Romo Wins William T. Grant Foundation Supplemental Award



*Dr. Laura Romo*

Laura Romo (Associate Professor, Gevirtz Graduate School of Education) has been awarded a two-year (\$60,000) supplemental award from the William T. Grant Foundation to support a mentoring relationship with a junior researcher of color. Professor Romo nominated Rebeca Mireles Rios, a student in the Department of Education, as her junior scholar. The Foundation is committed to increasing the number of people of color at higher levels of the career ladder in research. The Foundation also holds the belief that researchers of color bring strength

to the field, and that a more ethnically diverse and inclusive field will produce better research. Investing in promising graduate students is a good way to achieve this goal.

Rebeca will work with Professor Romo's research team in developing workshops to enhance communication between Latina immigrant mothers and daughters about sexuality and self-protective behaviors. Because a critical risk factor for adolescent pregnancy in low-income communities is pessimism related to educational opportunities, Professor Romo proposes to add workshops to help mothers talk to their daughters about their educational aspirations. Rebeca will begin the groundwork for this new component by conducting focus groups and qualitative interviews with mothers and daughters to assess their needs. In her nominating letter Professor Romo states, "The fact that Rebeca has received several merit awards over the years speaks to her drive to succeed. As an undergraduate at UC Davis, she was recognized for her leadership in multicultural student organizations. As a teacher, she received an impressive number of outstanding teacher awards. I look forward to having such a talented student work with me on this piece of my project."

### Three New Working Groups in the Center focus on Chicana/o Art, Immigration, and Social Change

The Center for Chicano Studies is pleased to announce the creation of three new working groups, each funded through an open call competition. Convened by Salvador Güereña (Director, California Ethnic and Multicultural Archive), Prof. Maria Herrera-Sobek (Luis Leal Endowed Chair, Dept. of Chicana and Chicano Studies), and Prof. Guisela Latorre (Dept. of Chicana and Chicano Studies), the ImaginArte working group draws on UCSB's world renowned Chicana/o art collections to foment new research, exhibitions and publications. The group's overall goal is to support new interdisciplinary scholarship and dissemination, including greater online access to the visual legacy of the Chicano movement. An interesting twist to this new project is that it is a multi-institutional campus partnership. Not only will scholars, educators, and students be able to benefit, but it will eventually also provide unique teaching resources that will be useful to instructors and their students in the K-16 school settings.

Organized by Professors Richard Durán (Gevirtz Graduate School), Juan Vicente Palerm (Anthropology), Laura Romo (Gevirtz Graduate School), Carolyn Pinedo Turnovsky (Sociology) and Denise Segura (Sociology), the Immigration Studies working group pursues an innovative approach to immigrant populations by focusing on the mechanisms they have developed to exercise social, cultural, political and economic influence. As difficult as the circumstances can be for undocumented immigrant populations in particular, the project contends that it is problematic to underestimate the influence exercised by immigrants. With approximately 12 million undocumented immigrants (4.9% of the U.S. workforce), who have 14.6 million "documented" immediate family members, there are certain to be important social and cultural impacts worthy of further study.

*Continued Page Two*

## Three New Working Groups (continued)

Immigrants have a long history of working through various means -- including organizations not requiring citizenship -- to improve their lives in the U.S. In this regard, the Latino immigrant community's influence might best be described as *voz sin voto* (or voice without vote). The Immigration Studies working group focuses on these aspects of influence with the goal of better informing policy decisions and institutional practices in California, and beyond.

Led by Professors Gerardo Aldana (Dept. of Chicana and Chicano Studies), Rudy Busto (Religion), Chela Sandoval (Dept. of Chicana and Chicano Studies), Inés Talamantez (Religion), and Walter Yuen (Mechanical Engineering), the Nepantla working group revisits the scholar-activist origins of the Chicano studies field in order to reevaluate the political, cultural and educational impacts of the field in its current state of practice. This group seeks new models and theories for social and cultural change, with the focus falling on how Chicano studies in the higher education setting might more effectively interact with communities, including K-12 schools and community-based organizations. The working group builds on a four-year, highly successful informal math and science education project located in Santa Barbara's La Casa de la Raza.

Each of these working groups will receive seed funding for a period of three years, and each has generated strategies for pursuing extramural grants. All of the projects have been designed to maximize student involvement and research mentoring. For more information about the working groups, please visit <http://research.ucsb.edu/ccs/>.

## Chicano Secret Service Rocks the House



On February 2, 2007 at UCSB's Multicultural Center, the Chicano Secret Service Comedy Troupe (including Elias Serna, Tomás Carrasco and Susan Carrasco) presented a multi-media extravaganza to a packed house. The show *Pre-Emptive Strike* was tailored for the UCSB community. A raucous and appreciative audience, including activists, professors and students, were thrilled with the intellectual/topical comedy, which more than once lampooned the audience members themselves (especially the professors). Saddam Jose, a half-Chicano and half-Palestinian character, provided news reports regarding the Iraq war. Condoleezza Arroz also gave an animated speech. The event was a great success, and the audience was treated to scathing and hilarious political critique that left no one safe, but everyone laughing and thinking (at the same time).

## Transforming Central Valley Communities: A Conference for Innovation



Dr. Juan Vicente Palerm

On April 25, 2007, the Center for Chicano Studies and its Immigration Working Group co-sponsored an innovative conference entitled "Transforming Central Valley Communities: A Conversation about the Transformative Effect that Migrant Agricultural Workers are Having on Rural Communities." This one-day event was staged at the University of California Cooperative Extension Conference Center in Tulare. In addition to focusing on under-served populations in California's Central Valley, the event also bridged academic, government and community-based organizations by pursuing a hybrid conference-workshop structure.

The sixty participants -- including researchers, policy makers, county and city administrators, school district representatives, leaders of community-based organizations and farm owners -- spent the morning listening to academic presentations conveying the latest data regarding trends in Central Valley farm worker communities. These presentations focused on the work of Professor Juan Vicente Palerm (Anthropology, UCSB), who has been studying these and similar rural, working poor populations across the state for the last twenty years. A related panel -- including several of Professor Palerm's current students -- extended the scope of the conversation to include a variety of working poor social organizations that are exercising significant influence on communities like Tulare, McFarland, and Delano.

In the afternoon, the participants broke into workshops focusing on the specific issues and concerns faced by activists, community leaders and administrators. One goal of these sessions was creating a better dialogue between community decision-makers and researchers. These discussions also offered invaluable information about where researchers might best focus their energies in the future, given the needs expressed by the community participants. Conference participants gave the event high marks, and the California Endowment (a co-sponsor of the conference) has expressed strong support for similar events in the future. Planning is already underway for a follow-up conference to be held in the Spring of 2008.

## Faculty Grant Profile

### Digitizing Desires: Virtual Public Memory, LGBT Latino Histories, and the Vicki Starr Collection

Prof. Horacio N. Roque Ramírez and Rolando Longoria II  
Department of Chicana and Chicano Studies



Victoria Fernandez

early in life, including her father's persistent denial to his wife that effeminate Victor could be his own flesh and blood. The economic and emotional need to leave the island after high school pushed young Victor into a long transnational route of multiple crossings, first to New York in the early 1950s, and eventually into the Bay Area by the 1960s. As she stated in a 1966 interview, Vicki left the island so she could "dress and act as I please without hurting myself or my family." As someone who could speak in the late 1990s to nearly three decades worth of queer Latino history before AIDS, Vicki became part of a long-term community oral history project with LGBT/Queer Latinas and Latinos in the region. Narrating in her 60s some of her decades-old history of racial and sexual crossings, Vicki also possessed an impressive collection of photographs, slides, clippings, documents, magazines, letters, and other ephemera. These document her life in the city, her mesmerizing performances as "Mr. Vicki Starr," her friendships with fellow male-to-female transgender women that included Latinas, her relationships with several husbands, and the challenges and joys of living in part through performances and sex work since the 1950s. With the critical funding support of a Center for Chicano Studies 2006 Faculty Grant, Chicana and Chicano Studies Professor Roque Ramírez and Chicano Studies Ph.D. graduate student Rolando Longoria II began to process the Vicki Starr collection to organize it as a coherent archive. With the eventual goal of digitizing the materials in the collection, Longoria has thus far organized nearly 400 black-and-white and color photographs; over 200 35-milimeter slides; over 50 clippings; dozens of periodicals and magazines, and several personal letters among many other materials waiting to be fully catalogued. In these hundreds of material traces of a male-to-female Puerto Rican transgender woman migrant, we can appreciate the changing "nature" of gender and sex categories; the relationship between blood family and queer kinships; the place of sex work and erotic cultural work in the making of queer and non-queer public culture; and the foundational role of transgender women performers for the building of queer community histories.

The first phase of a larger on-line digital history project, "Digitizing Desires" began with the painstaking but rewarding and rich process of carefully accessing the contents of a barely surviving archival collection, that of the legendary San Francisco Bay Area transgender Puerto Rican performer, Victoria Fernandez, better known as "Vicki Starr." Born Victor Fernández in San-turce, Puerto Rico in 1932, Vicki faced gender repression

## Letter from the Director

During 2006-2007, the Center for Chicano Studies continued to build on its recent growth. For example, the value of extramural grant proposals submitted topped \$3.5 million, up from \$2.1 million the year before. In addition to seeing an overall increase in the number of extramural proposals this year, we also had proposals submitted by scholars working in a more diverse range of fields. Likewise, the Center experienced a substantial increase in terms of the proposals submitted to the unit's internal seed funding competitions. Seed funds provided by the Office of Research and the Executive Vice Chancellor's Office allowed the Center to offer twice as many (18) student research awards as previous years. This was also the first year that the Center offered undergraduate research awards. Faculty seed funding was robust as well, with a total of eight awards. Our effort to make the campus aware of UC/Mexus grant opportunities also translated into impressive gains. UC/Mexus awards for the campus overall are up, and the Center has submitted a record number of proposals (six) for this year's competition. The Center has also grown physically by gaining three research offices in El Centro (Building 406), a windfall that will greatly benefit our new and expanding projects.

Most importantly, our research and outreach initiatives have thrived during 2006-2007. Among these initiatives, the ARTE program offered vital arts education in three local schools (the César Chávez Charter School, Isla Vista Elementary, and El Puente High School). The Huehuetlatolli project, an after-school informal math and science education program drawing on Mayan culture and concepts, realized a record number of enrolments and continued to develop groundbreaking pedagogical techniques and curricula. In addition, the Center partnered with the Chancellor's Office and other units on campus in order to create on-line teaching materials, a UCSB volunteer speakers' network, and programming, all intended to inform the interested public about immigration issues. The Center also staged much needed outreach events, including a conference on educational opportunity, organized by Professor Tara Yosso (Dept. of Chicana and Chicano Studies); this event brought dozens of L.A. high school students to UCSB to hear a range of speakers, including a leading scholar of Chicano/Latino educational issues, Professor Daniel Solorzano (UCLA). Finally, the Center greatly expanded its virtual publishing by initiating a California Digital Library eScholar Repository Site. Within two months of establishing the site, thousands of copies of the Center's working papers and books were disseminated via downloads. Blessed with an outstanding staff -- Theresa Peña and Zenaida Pérez -- and strong university support, the Center looks forward to the coming year, and encourages anyone who is interested to stop by and learn more about our programs. Information about the Center is also available on-line: <http://research.ucsb.edu/ccs/>.

Carl Gutiérrez-Jones  
Director, Center for Chicano Studies

### 2007 CCS Faculty Research Awards

Ralph Armbruster-Sandoval, Chicana and Chicano Studies  
 Edwina Barvosa-Carter, Chicana and Chicano Studies  
 Mary Bucholtz, Linguistics  
 Ellie D. Hernandez, Women's Studies  
 Laura Romo, Gevirtz Graduate School of Education  
 Horacio Roque Ramírez, Chicana and Chicano Studies  
 Inés M. Talamantez, Religious Studies  
 Tara J. Yosso, Chicana and Chicano Studies

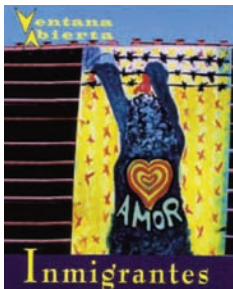
### 2007 CCS Graduate Student Research Awards

Jose G. Anguiano, Chicana and Chicano Studies  
 Alexis L. Filippini, Gevirtz Graduate School of Education  
 Oscar F. Gil, Sociology  
 Nhi A. Lam, Gevirtz Graduate School of Education  
 Rolando R. Longoria, II, Chicana and Chicano Studies  
 Rani F. McLean, Anthropology  
 Sarah Rodriguez, Sociology  
 Rebecca Romo, Sociology  
 Oliver A. Rosales, History  
 Xuan Santos, Sociology  
 Cristina Serna, Chicana and Chicano Studies  
 Rene E. Staskal, Gevirtz Graduate School of Education  
 Abigail D. Thompson, Gevirtz Graduate School of Education  
 Gina Valentino, English  
 Rosina Wright-Castro, Gevirtz Graduate School of Education

### 2007 CCS Undergraduate Research Awards

Magli Bravo, Chicana and Chicano Studies  
 Rachel J. Montesdeoca, Sociology  
 Marlen Torres, Chicana and Chicano Studies

### Publication News



The editors of *Ventana Abierta*, Professors Luis Leal and Victor Fuentes, celebrated their Spring 2007 issue of the journal at a reception on May 17th.

The journal remains the premier venue for Spanish-language literature and criticism published in the U.S.

To subscribe, please visit:  
<http://research.ucsb.edu/ccs/>

*The Affirmative Action and Diversity Web Project* logged 2.1 million visitors as of May 2007. The URL is <http://aad.english.ucsb.edu/>.



### El Puente High School Students Attend ARTE Program Conference at UCSB



Sociology graduate student Xuan Santos describes his experiences and encourages the high school participants to seek out the resources available at UC Santa Barbara.

### CCS Grant Competition Deadlines

Faculty Research Grant Applications  
 Graduate Student Research Grant Applications  
 Undergraduate Research Grant Applications  
 Conference Grant Applications

All due Tuesday, November 13, 2007  
 South Hall 4518

For information: x5315 or <http://research.ucsb.edu/ccs/>

### Center for Chicano Studies Staff

Carl Gutiérrez-Jones, Director  
 Theresa Peña, Business Officer  
 Zenaida Pérez, Publications and Financial Assistant  
 Thomas Carrasco, Program Director, ARTE Project  
 Peter Cheng, ARTE Program Assistant

### 2006-2007 CCS Advisory Committee

Juan Vicente Palerm, Chair (Anthrology)  
 Gerardo Aldana, Chicana and Chicano Studies  
 Edwina Barvosa-Carter, Chicana and Chicano Studies  
 George Lipsitz, Black Studies  
 Francisco Lomelí, Chicana and Chicano Studies  
 Laura Romo, Graduate School of Education  
 Christina Venegas, Film Studies  
*Ex-officio Members:*  
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 María Herrera-Sobek, Chicana and Chicano Studies  
 Ray Huerta, Mexican Affairs Liaison, CCS  
 Claudia Martínez, Director, APEO  
 Denise Segura, Sociology

Office of Research Liaison  
 Norma Marquez