**USC Latino Student Empowerment Conference-In Review**

On Saturday, Jan. 28 along with El Centro Chicano, headed by Billy Vela and ASE/CALAS department headed by Veronica Terriquez, we, the Latina/o Student Assembly, hosted the first ever Latino Empowerment Student Conference at USC. The purpose was to empower and ignite activism through scholarship, grassroots organizing, and conversation amongst Latino college students. The event brought out roughly 60 students and people from the community to discuss and engage in Latino empowerment strategies. There were many guests from Community organizations - and Chicano/Latino alumni from the 90s.

Students had the ability to interact intimately and meaningfully with the different segments of activism. Scholars with their own current research also presented their findings to conference goers in small sessions where conversation followed passionate research presentations. Denise Colome presented her research on USC workers and Evelyn Larios both presented and moderated panels on civic engagement and the labor sector. Students felt engaged and excited to learn about fascinating topics affecting the Latino community. Subway, muffins, juice, a creative t-shirt, and other goodies were given to conference participants. Overall, the first ever Latino Empowerment Conference was a success. Congratulations to both the participants and the hosts — and more to come NEXT YEAR!

For photos of the event, click [here](http://sait.usc.edu/elcentro/Upload/2012_EmpowermentConference_Program%20Final.pdf) and [here](http://sait.usc.edu/elcentro/Upload/2012_EmpowermentConference_Program%20Final.pdf). (Photo credit: El Centro Chicano)

*Here is the link to the program of the conference: [http://sait.usc.edu/elcentro/Upload/2012_EmpowermentConference_Program%20Final.pdf](http://sait.usc.edu/elcentro/Upload/2012_EmpowermentConference_Program%20Final.pdf)*

**El Centro Chicano’s 40th Anniversary Commemoration**

It was Friday October 6, 1972 when the front page of the Daily Trojan displayed the headline: Chicanos Win OK for Center. The article confirmed the university’s plan for the establishment of El Centro Chicano with a grant funded by the Mellon Foundation and named Raul Vargas as the interim director of the center. Support in this effort was also provided by MECHA advisor Arturo Abarca who stated: “We will prove that this is going to be a worthwhile project.” This was seen as a great victory for the Latina/o students on campus had long been urging the university to allocate more services to serve minority students.

2012 marks 40 years of El Centro Chicano providing invaluable services and programs to USC’s Latina/o students. Our establishment in 1972 was a result of the local manifestation of the Chicano Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s and 70s on USC’s campus. While the inception of El Centro Chicano was a result of many politically charged events, in the last 4 decades it has transformed into a core institution within the USC community providing students with the support and resources they need to succeed at USC and beyond.

Certainly Mr. Abarca’s comment was a foreshadowing of the great programs in El Centro’s future that have led to this year’s celebration. We hope that you are as excited as we are about celebrating such a milestone for the rest of the year. We are also excited to celebrate the 40th with a large gala celebration in fall 2012. Stay tuned for more updates and facts we’ll be sharing with you in the newsletters to come.
Faculty Spotlight!

Manuel Pastor
Professor of American Studies and Ethnicity

Dr. Manuel Pastor is Professor of American Studies & Ethnicity at the University of Southern California where he also serves as Director of USC’s Program for Environmental and Regional Equity (PERE) and co-Director of USC’s Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration (CSII). Founding director of the Center for Justice, Tolerance, and Community at the University of California, Santa Cruz, Pastor holds an economics Ph.D. from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and has received fellowships from the Danforth, Guggenheim, and Kellogg foundations and grants from the Irvine Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the National Science Foundation, the Hewlett Foundation, the California Environmental Protection Agency, the California Wellness Foundation, and many others. In recent years, his research has focused on the economic, environmental and social conditions facing low-income urban communities in the U.S., resulting in articles published in Economic Development Quarterly, Review of Regional Studies, Social Science Quarterly, Journal of Economic Issues, Journal of Urban Affairs, Urban Affairs Review, Urban Geography, and elsewhere. He has also conducted research on Latin American economic conditions, with articles published in journals such as International Organization, World Development, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Latin American Studies, Latin American Research Review, and Latin American Affairs. His most recent book, Uncommon Common Ground: Race and America’s Future (W.W. Norton 2010; co-authored with Angela Glover Blackwell and Stewart Kwob) documents the gap between progress in racial attitudes and racial realities, and offers a new set of strategies for both talking about and achieving racial equity. Previous volumes include This Could Be the Start of Something Big: How Social Movements for Regional Equity are Transforming Metropolitan America (Cornell University Press 2008; co-authored with Chris Benner and Martha Matsuo), Staircases or Treadmills: Labor Market Intermediaries and Economic Opportunity in a Changing Economy (Russell Sage 2007; co-authored with Chris Benner and Laura Leete), Searching for the Uncommon Common Ground: New Dimensions on Race in America (W.W. Norton 2006; co-authored with Angela Glover Blackwell and Stewart Kwob) and Regions That Work: How Cities and Suburbs Can Grow Together (University of Minnesota Press 2000; co-authored with Peter Dreier, Eugene Grigsby, and Marta Lopez-Garras), a book that has become a standard reference for those looking to link neighborhoods and regions. Dr. Pastor speaks frequently on issues of demographic change, economic inequality, and community empowerment and has contributed opinion pieces to such outlets as the Los Angeles Times, the San Jose Mercury News, the Los Angeles Business Journal, and the Christian Science Monitor. He served as a member of the Commission on Regions appointed by California’s Speaker of the State Assembly, and in January 2005 was awarded a Civic Entrepreneur of the Year award from the California Center for Regional Equity. He is a member of the Building Resilient Regions research network sponsored by the MacArthur Foundation.

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Project ReMiX: LEAP BACK 20 YEARS: LA EXPLODES

Wednesday, Feb. 29th, 2012 | 5:30p-m-7:30pm  | UUC 3rd Floor

Civil unrest. The LA Riots. Sa-I-Gu.

Three names that conjure a static image of Black-Korean violence in the American consciousness. Join us for an evening of reflection and dialogue with those who were actually there — store owners, police, and community activists... What were the root causes that led to LA exploding? Will the embryos of racial and economic injustice ignite again?

Dinner provided. Space is limited — RSVP to apass@usc.edu by 2/17!

This event is brought to you by Project ReMiX, a collaborative project between Asian Pacific American Student Services, Center for Black Cultural and Student Affairs, and El Centro Chicano.

For more info: https://www.facebook.com/events/246471172093994/
Teach For America Application Deadline

Subject Line: FINAL Deadline: Teach For America – Friday 2/10!

In America, zip code determines one’s life outcomes. Kids growing up in poverty are more likely to call a prison bed home than their college dorm room. The color of a child’s skin nor the size of a child’s parents paycheck should not determine his or her destiny. Teach For America is your opportunity to have a direct impact on the lives of hundreds of students and families to change this fact. This isn’t just employment for next year; this is a chance to join our nation’s next Civil Rights Movement. Our students need us now, more than ever. Application requirements are simply:

- Resume
- 500 word Letter of Intent
- No letters of recommendation required

Teach For America’s FINAL application deadline is February, Friday 10th. – Click here to view the application: https://www.teachforamerica.org/online/info/index.jsp

See the impact you can have here:
- http://www.youtube.com/user/teachforamerica
- http://www.teachforamerica.org/new/
- http://voices2.teachforamerica.org/

The Basics of Teach For America:
- Teach For America Corps Members are full-time teachers in a classroom
- All academic majors and backgrounds accepted (background in education/teacher certification is not required)
- Salary ranging from $35,000-$81,000 a year with health insurance and retirement benefits
- Americorps Education award of $10,700
- Loan forbearance and paid interest for two years
- Regional placement is not random; applicants preference location in our 43 regions
- All subjects and grade levels including Pre-K, ELL, SpEd, and the Arts
- Option to receive your certification and/or Masters in Teaching
- Graduate school and employer partnerships for alum to continue their societal impact

To learn more about our organizations, visit www.teachforamerica.org or contact London Moore (London.Moore@teachforamerica.org)

Latino Trojan Family Reunion: Night of Networking

Our Annual Latino Trojan Family Reunion will be happening Tuesday February 28th 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm at El Centro Chicano (Save the Date). This event creates an opportunity for alumni to come and reach out to students (both undergraduate & graduate) to network and provide advice on key programs to take advantage of while at USC and Keys to Life after USC. The agenda will be as follows:

6:00pm - 7:00pm: Appetizers and Networking

7:00pm - 8:00pm: Discussion Panel featuring Trojan Alumni from diverse fields and professions w/ Q&A.

8:00pm - 9:00pm: More networking and raffle

Please click here to RSVP! Co-sponsored by El Centro Chicano & LSA. More to come soon!

El Centro is HIRING!

EL CENTRO IS LOOKING FOR A STRONG LEADER TO WORK FOR OUR OFFICE: IS THAT YOU? You need to be interested in building community both within our office and across campus. Must be available to attend mandatory staff meetings on Mondays from 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm and have federal WORKSTUDY. If this is you, please fill out the application on the link below and submit a written essay. The application deadline is Friday Feb 10th. We are looking to fill this position as soon as possible. If you have any questions email us at ecc@usc.edu.

Link for application: http://sait.usc.edu/elcentro/about/employment.aspx

INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS OFFICE

PAID INTERNSHIPS:

uSamp – Web Developer

We are seeking a talented front-end web developer to build out templated web sites. This individual will be working with Photoshop designs and translating them to HTML, CSS and some JavaScript. This is a fast-paced environment working on many projects and different designs. Required skills for the position include strong HTML skills (knowledge of how to write tight, streamlined HTML, CSS and JavaScript), good understanding of CSS inheritance, in-depth knowledge of IE quirks and how to address them, and comfortable hand coding HTML, CSS, and JavaScript (jQuery). The intern will be working with marketing and design teams on emails, marketing info pages and sites in addition to other tasks. The hourly role is paid at $15-$17 per hour. If you are interested please send your resume and cover letter to Melissa@usamp.com.

JetBlue – Regional Marketing Internship

JetBlue Airways is seeking a Marketing Intern in the West Coast regional office at Long Beach Airport in Long Beach, CA. This is a paid internship. The Marketing Intern reports to two (2) Regional Marketing Managers, and will be assisting in negotiation, execution, and evaluation of marketing initiatives throughout our west coast region. The Intern supports promotional activities through research, preparation, and execution of events, as well as independently managing administrative processes and tasks in the regional marketing office. Qualified candidates with demonstrated experience with Microsoft Office Products: Word, Excel, and Outlook. They would also be a self starter and a “people person” who is knowledgeable about the airline industry. If you are interested please e-mail your resume Jace.Hieda@jetblue.com.

For much more information:
Contact the Internship Programs Office in STU B1 or log on to connectSC at http://careers.usc.edu
Wednesday, February 15, 2012 | 6:00pm-8:00pm | TCC 350/351/352

You are cordially invited to attend the 6th Annual Mocktails taking place on Wednesday, February 15, 2012 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

This year’s Mocktails is once again being sponsored by Target in conjunction with USC LBSA, El Centro Chicano, USC Latino Student Assembly & USC Latino Alumni Association.

We highly encourage all scholars to attend this event. Event is open to ALL USC students. This will be a great networking and interviewing seminar with Target representatives and USC Alumni in attendance.

**Latino Alumni Scholars will receive 3 credits for attending. Business attire required & appetizers will be served.

We hope to see many of you there! Event info: http://www.facebook.com/events/165880003521763/#/!

“**I am not complete in the mind**”: Senselessness and War in Contemporary Guatemala

Wednesday, Feb. 8th, 2012 | 4:00pm | THH 114

The Department of Spanish and Portuguese invites you to a lecture by Christian Kroll, University of Michigan

“**I am not complete in the mind**”: Senselessness and War in Contemporary Guatemala

Christian Kroll is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures at the University of Michigan. His dissertation, “A Semantics of Insurgency: Literature, Space and the Political in Contemporary Latin America,” examines the interplay between literature and insurgency in Central America, Mexico and Peru. His research and teaching interests focus on the discourses and practices of cultural, political and spatial exclusion. He received his M.A. in Urban Planning from the University of Michigan.

MEChA de USC Orientation

Thursday, February 9th, 2012 | 5:00 pm | UUC 300 (El Centro Chicano)

MEChA is back! We are up and running, more than ready to take on this challenge. Come check us out! Our first meeting for the Spring 2012 semester will consist of MEChA Orientation. If you would like to form part of a great club organization recognized in the national level with a vast amount of history pay us a visit this Thursday! You will not regret it! Learn all about our plans for the year and have fun! See you there!

For more info: http://www.facebook.com/events/317332558303389/

First Generation (Documentary Screening)

7:00 P.M. on Wednesday, February 8th, 2012 | The Ray Stark Family Theatre, George Lucas Building, SCA 108

Written, Directed and Produced by SCA Alumnus Adam Fenderson and Jaye Fenderson

Followed by a Q&A with Adam & Jaye Fenderson and documentary participant Cecilia Lopez

Narrated by Golden Globe nominee Blair Underwood, First Generation tells the story of four high school students - an inner city athlete, a small town waitress, a Samoan warrior dancer, and the daughter of migrant field workers - who set out to break the cycle of poverty and bring hope to their families and communities by pursuing a college education.

Shot over the course of three years and featuring some of our nation’s top educational experts (Richard Kahlenberg, The Century Foundation; J.B. Schraam, College Summit; Dr. Bill Tierney, University of Southern California), this 95 minute documentary explores the problem of college access faced by first generation and low-income students and how their success has major implications for the future of our nation.

RSVP HERE
16th Annual ED WOOD Film Festival

INTERESTED IN MAKING A MOVIE FOR A USC FILM FESTIVAL?
You and your friends have 24 HOURS to do it!
On February, 25th, the 16th Annual ED WOOD FILM FESTIVAL - 24 HOUR SHOOT Begins!
What is it?
The Ed Wood Film Festival is a long-running tradition of USC, open to all students (Freshmen-Senior). Check out previous years submissions here!
What makes the festival unique is that teams of filmmakers are limited to a mere 24 hours to conceive, write, shoot, and edit an idea!
Ed Wood was a B-movie director of the 1950s and 60s, notorious for making particularly bad horror and sci-fi flicks. What The Ed Wood Film Festival seeks to prove is that even in 24 hours, USC Film Students can outperform "a professional."
Films that make the cut will be screened in the Campus Ballroom for a big audience, and have the chance to win awards! Screening is on Friday March 2nd, 2012 @ 6pm.

How do I get involved?
Join the Facebook Group - for more info! or Contact us directly via EdWood2012@gmail.com!

COLLEGE NIGHTS

Come join us for COLLEGE NIGHTS at Mountain High Resort on Thursday February 16th.
This is a great opportunity to ski with fellow Trojans and other college students. There will be special performances by pro snowboarder Marc Frank Montoya (MFM), Ominous Words, and The Musical Mammal. Check out the link to see a flyer provided by Mountain High about College Nights. http://mthigh.com/event/college-night-3
USC Recreational Sports will be providing transportation to and from the event. The buses leave from in front of the Lyon Center at USC at 3pm and depart from Mountain High Resort at 10pm.
You can register for four different packages:
- Lift ticket only: $20
- Lift ticket and bus: $40
- Lift ticket, bus, and ski rental: $60
- Lift ticket, bus, and snowboard rental: $65

To register please visit our website at www.usc.edu/recsports | **Direct link to event: http://sait.usc.edu/Recsports/calendars/sports/intramurals/college-night-at-mountain-high
Questions? Contact Danika at dloneill@usc.edu

West Area Presents Diversity Month 2012

Diversity Month is a month-long celebration of diversity of the mind, body, & soul presented by the West Area at USC. There are over a dozen featured events, including performances, discussion sessions, off-campus trips, and dance nights. This includes:

MONTH-LONG RAFFLE:
Each time you attend an event you will receive a raffle ticket. At the end of the month, we will be raffling off GRAND PRIZES at our...

FINALE SHOW:
FEATURING “Dragging Out the Real Issues” with Ms. Barbie-Q & Friends.

Get ready...because it’s coming...
For more info: https://www.facebook.com/events/38088086734987/

Free Practice Exams
Thinking about grad school? Start here by taking a free practice test! On Sunday, February 12th, Kaplan Test Prep is holding a free practice exam event for LSAT, GRE, MCAT, DPT and OAT. Not only will you get experience with real test questions and tips from our experts, but you’ll also get your score the same day! Thinking PCAT or GMAT? Can’t make it on Feb 12th? We’ve got you covered with free online practice exams you can take from the comfort of home. To register, visit http://bit.ly/TrojansFeb2012. Questions? Contact Julia Browne at julia.browne@kaplan.com. We look forward to seeing you there!