Students voice concerns about Master Plan

By Isabelle Mason

Students and staff members discussed on Thursday at the Von KleinSmid Center USC’s Master Plan and its potential community impact.

The potential for job creation as part of the Master Plan’s initiatives for development struck interest with David Galaviz, executive director of local government relations for USC.

“[USC] will make sure that there is a local hiring component, so that the residents have access to these jobs,” Galaviz said.

Community impact was a theme of the night, as the potential for affordable retail stores as well as easing housing concerns in the areas surrounding USC were discussed.

“We are creating 8,300 beds, meaning we could ease some of the housing pressure in the community,” Galaviz said.

Galaviz also noted that the increase in housing as outlined by the Master Plan could put some downward pressure on rents, thus making neighborhood housing more affordable.

“Students want more affordable housing options, not necessarily new ones,” Casillas said.

Max Hoiland, a senior majoring in critical studies, is also concerned about a possible rise in housing prices as a result of the Master Plan.

“I live about a mile off campus with a bunch of students,” Hoiland said. “This plan would probably increase rent in the area since USC hasn’t made any specific commitment to affordable housing, and private landlords would have the ability to raise their prices too.”

The possibility that a higher-end retailer would replace Superior Grocers also worried Casillas.

“Everything found in those [higher-end] stores is at a higher price, which means the community won’t be able to afford it, and they will have to shop in a different neighborhood,” Casillas said.

Galaviz tried to dispel commonly held fears by stressing that over the last four to five years, the university has sponsored at least 200 community meetings through either an advisory council or door-to-door outreach in order to give community members a chance to voice their opinions.

Community members were also able to have their voices heard during the two open houses organized by the City Planning Department, which more than 360 people attended, 300 of whom supported the plan.

Casillas, however, feels that the student body has not been afforded the opportunity to fully understand and discuss what the Master Plan entails. She plans to work with the United Neighbors in Defense Against Displacement, and will conduct an open forum regarding the development plans.

“This event is not about being ‘for’ or ‘against’ the Master Plan but merely a call for equal consideration,” Casillas said.

Joshua SENA, a junior majoring in sociology, said including everyone in the discussion about the Master Plan encourages its success.

“The best course of action would be a collaboration between students, the community and USC,” SENA said. “Everyone affected should have input as to what should be done.”

For an opinion piece on this article/issue, read “Master Plan will divide USC, community” by Francesca BESSEY at http://dailytroyan.com/2012/04/08/master-plan-will-divide-usc-community/

“To most USC students, the idea of bulldozing the University Village and replacing it with a shopping mall, movie theater, public square and student housing sounds like a dream come true. Students discussing the Master Plan at a forum last Thursday, however, raised some very valid concerns about the plan’s potential negative implications on both the student body and the community at large.” For whole article go to link provided above.

Professor discusses civil rights and immigration

By Isabelle Mason

Veronica Terriquez, a professor of sociology, spoke on civil and immigration rights as well as the benefits of grassroots organizations for the last lecture in the What Matters to Me and Why speaker series at the Ground Zero Performance Cafe on Wednesday.

An L.A. native, Terriquez is the daughter of undocumented Mexican immigrants but said that she now identifies with the 1 percent — the 1 percent of Latinos with a doctorate. Terriquez received her doctorate in sociology from UCLA and has a background in educational equality and immigrant rights organization efforts.

“What matters to me is supporting social justice causes that fight for equal opportunities for immigrants, for low-income people of color, for gay people, for students here in the United States and the way I do this is through my research and teaching,” Terriquez said. “Specifically, I care about research that informs workers’ rights, immigration reform and student-led efforts for social change.”

Terriquez discussed civil rights history and said the civil rights movement played an important part in opening doors for her and her family. She said she credits Ella Baker, a black civil rights activist, for fueling her passion for grassroots activism. Baker trained students, women and workers in civil and human rights activism for 50 years.

“I realized that much of my work examines her legacy,” Terriquez said. “My work looks at how everyday people — immigrants, workers and youths — employ the grassroots organizing techniques that Baker taught so many people, young and old. She was committed to students who tended to show great courage and steadfast commitment to their cause.”

Citing a historical example, Terriquez said the Watts Riots of 1965 led to greater pressure for integration in labor unions and factories. Her father felt

the benefit of integration firsthand when he was allowed to join the United Steelworkers Union.

Terriquez said it meant her family was no longer poor.

As an undergraduate student at Harvard University, Terriquez said she met the real 1 percent and thanks activists before her for the Ivy League opportunity.

“I had the privilege of going to Harvard for my undergrad and I must say that I owe my acceptance into this university in great part to the civil rights movement that fought for racial integration and affirmative action that diversified institutions of higher education,” Terriquez said.

To be a part of a social movement, Terriquez moved to Oakland and became a community organizer. She said there she learned firsthand the impact grassroots organizations have on the community.

One of her first research projects was a Justice for Janitors campaign that fought for fair wages and working conditions for janitors.

“I really care about research that can inform efforts to improve our immigration laws so that they’re fair to everybody,” Terriquez said. “The same opportunities should exist for many of the people who are here and who are undocumented.”

In what Terriquez calls a “nation of immigrants,” immigrant issues of equality, especially in youths, is at the forefront of her mind.

“I’m often moved by the work of students who really are at the vanguard, trying to change the world and trying to make it a better place,” Terriquez said.

Managing Editor

Stephanie Barajas

Aguilar

Editor-in-Chief

El Centro Chicano
The Rise of Rome: A Lecture by Anthony Everitt

Friday, April 20, 2012 | 5:30pm | TCC Grand Ballroom
USC Students, Staff and Faculty: To RSVP, click here. General Public: To RSVP, click here.

On the eve of the Los Angeles Times Festival of Books, join USC President C. L. Max Nikias for an enlightening evening with Anthony Everitt, the bestselling author of acclaimed biographies of Cicero, Augustus and Hadrian. Everitt will give a talk based on his forthcoming book, The Rise of Rome, a remarkable and riveting story of the unlikely rise of the greatest empire the world has ever known. Historians have long pondered the decline and fall of the Roman Empire, but how was the empire won? Everitt will present a galvanizing and erudite account of the emergence of antiquity’s greatest power and the remarkable personalities that led to a position of greatness unmatched in history. From its founding as a small market town in the eighth century BC to Caesar’s victory in the Civil War that defeated the Republic and marked the beginning of the empire, the story of Rome is rich with extraordinary moments and lasting lessons. Everitt will discuss the influence Rome has had on our world, from art to the arts of government, and vividly illustrate how every western power since—including the United States—has sought to be “the new Rome.”

Anthony Everitt, visiting professor in the visual and performing arts at Nottingham Trent University, has written extensively on European culture and is the bestselling author of Cicero, Augustus and Hadrian and the Triumph of Rome. He has served as secretary general of the Arts Council for Great Britain. Everitt lives near Colchester, England’s first recorded town, (found of course) by the Romans.

For further information on this event: visionsandvoices@usc.edu
What’s Going On...Now: An Outdoor Listening Party

Join us as for a live, outdoor listening party and celebration of Marvin Gaye’s landmark album What’s Going On in Alumni Park Thursday, April 12 at 5 PM. Professor Josh Kun will lead audience discussion and put the album in context, with help from special guests, including acclaimed artist Aloe Blacc. Bring a picnic, camp out on the lawn, and join us to think about What’s Going On...Now. Event is free and open to the public. Weather permitting. In May of 1971, Marvin Gaye released What’s Going On, his landmark soul album decrying injustice, war, and hatred. A year later he performed it at the newly opened Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. To celebrate the 40th anniversary of this event, the Kennedy Center is leading a national conversation around the albums political, social, and cultural issues. As part of this project, join us at USC as we host a live outdoor listening party where we will play the entire What’s Going On album from start to finish.

About the Album Marvin Gaye wanted more freedom to make music with a stronger message. He knew he was flying in the face of Gordy and Motown, but his long string of hits had given him the leverage to fight for what he felt truly mattered. His vision and determination became the album What’s Going On. The album built on the instrumental artistry of Motown's outstanding musicians and miracle-making sound engineers. But Gaye also wove in the political, environmental, and social commentary of folk rockers. He harnessed the driving energy of gospel, jazz, soul, and other styles rooted in African American musical traditions. He also added psychedelic modes that pushed the albums musical style beyond anything he or Motown had tried before. At the same time, Gaye's smooth-as-silk vocals and phrasing were often reminiscent of past crooners he admired. The album was immediately recognized as a unique and daring work in its own right. The songs on What’s Going On were united by Marvin Gaye's dismay about what he saw going on in the world. He sang about the troubles many Americans—especially African Americans—were facing. These woes included the Vietnam War, racism, environmental destruction, poverty, and drug abuse. At times, Gaye was overwhelmed by anger and despair about what was happening. Other times, he spotted glimmers of hope and the possibility of peace and love.

For more info: http://www.facebook.com/events/372880386085365/!

Expose the Truth: Strip to Stop Sweatshop Clothing at USC

Trojan pride is an important component of USC student life. Unfortunately, there are still a few things students can’t yet be proud of. The University of Southern California has been manufacturing and selling SC apparel that is produced in sweatshops in third world countries. We recently signed a ten year exclusive licensing deal with the Dallas Cowboys’ clothing manufacturer, a known sweatshop abuser. An ESPN reporter visited some of their factories in Cambodia and discovered the workers were being forced to work 60+ hours per week under abusive managers for only $0.29/hour (see link below). These atrocities are not consistent with USC’s policies that promote justice and fairness for all.

We, as USC students and lifelong members of the Trojan family, deserve to have a say in the companies our school chooses to support. After all, we are the ones who purchase and wear USC clothing. No Trojan wants to wear our school colors sewn by the hands of overworked, underpaid workers. So how can you help? Come out on Thursday, April 19th and join the Student Coalition Against Labor Exploitation in letting USC know that the student body will NOT support human rights abuses.

For more info: http://www.facebook.com/events/372880386085365/!

INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS OFFICE

PAID INTERNSHIPS:

Enterprise Holdings, Inc. – Management Trainee Internship

There’s only one internship program like this. That’s because there’s only one Enterprise. Every year we turn approximately 2,000 paid internships into real, substantial career-building tools. And no, you won’t spend your time fetching cups of coffee or making coffee. You’ll learn what it takes to run a successful business because that’s what you’ll help do. Along the way, you’ll also participate in contests and competitions with other interns, building relationships, honing your entrepreneurial skills and gaining experience. You’ll take on the same challenges as our first and second year full-time professionals. Even better, at the end of your internship, you’ll make a presentation to your management team covering the business topics you learned throughout the program. Want to GO? You put the GO in GO-getter. As part of our Management Internship Program, you must be ambitious, creative, personable, resourceful, fun loving and hard working. As you’d imagine, everyone else in the program is just as motivated as you. If you’re ready, the business training you’ll receive will put your skills, your attitude and your resume way out in front. Please apply online at www.go.enterprise.com! The pay is $10/hour and you must be graduating by May 2013.

Lovvvit.com – Internship Opportunity

Lovvvit.com is looking for smart, extremely motivated self-starters to intern with our passionate, creative team of online marketing and branding experts. This is great way to boost your resume and learn about the world of internet entrepreneurship. We have a fun work environment in a great area! We are offering paid internships. Feel free to check us out at lovvvit.com. Interns will produce short Lovvvit videos, identifying the next hot product, service or businesses in LA. Collaborate with Marketing Team on new initiatives, projects and brainstorming. Engage influencers through social media to attract video talent to the site. You must have your own laptop & iPhone/iPad. To apply, please send your cover letter and resume to lovvvit.com/nihpone/job@gmail.com.

For more information: Contact the Internship Programs Office in STU B1 or log on to connectSC at http://careers.usc.edu

EL CENTRO E-NEWSLETTER
Everyone is invited to join us for Lunch and Latin Jazz in Alumni Park!

JAZZ IN THE PARK WITH USC ALAJE (Afro Latin American Jazz Ensemble)

Thursday, April 12, 2012
11:30am-1:30pm Lunch
Noon-1:00pm Free Concert

Restaurant Santa Cecilia is serving soft tacos (carne/pollo asado) or taquitos (potato/chicken/beef) with rice, beans, guacamole & salsa for $7/plate. Sodas, lemonade and horchata will also be available. Everyone is welcome to come move their feet to the beat and eat some treats! Please print the attached flyer and post it your building to help us get the word out!

5/16 @ 11:30AM LATINO FORUM ANNUAL CARNE ASADA AT PARKSIDE

Please save the date for our Annual Carne Asada event on Wednesday, May 16th, 11:30am-1:30pm at the Parkside Performance Cafe. Our guest speaker Awilda Bregand, Executive Director of Benefits Administration, will share information on the changes to the USC faculty/staff tuition benefit and how it will affect you. She will also touch upon the tuition exchange program. Program runs from 12:15pm-12:45pm

The USC Latino Forum has historically served as the collective voice for Latino Faculty and Staff at the University of Southern California. Membership is open to any USC Faculty or Staff member interested in improving the quality of life for Latinos and all people of color on the USC Campus. For more information please contact latino4m@dornsife.usc.edu.

Internship with Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard’s
downtown LA district office.

We are now accepting applications for the summer internship in Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard’s downtown LA district office.

Perhaps some of your students would be interested in spending their summer working alongside the congresswoman’s casework staff and field deputies. In past interns have helped draft letters and briefing memos, coordinate community events, conduct online research, and provide general administrative support.

Students from the 34th Congressional District are encouraged to apply!

Applications will be accepted until May 15th.

Also, if you are having an internship fair or would like me to drop by your campus and talk with your students about the internship program, please let me know and I will schedule a day and time to drop by.

Interview and Negotiating Workshop

Thursday, 12 April, 2012 | 1:00pm-2:00pm | STU B3

At this workshop you will learn what it takes to set yourself apart during the interview and how to negotiate an offer. Come and have your questions answered when it comes to the art of the interview and learning how and what is negotiable.

Prepare for this workshop by reading:
Interview: Different Types handout: http://careers.usc.edu/docs/handouts/Interview_Different_Types.pdf

This event is for current USC students only.
VISIT TO WATTS, TAMALE TRUCK, AND MORE

We will be traveling to Watts to try out a tamale truck and tacos de canasta on Sunday, April 22. Time TBA although sometime in the early afternoon. Make sure to mark your calendars! Check out the following links for more information:

Tacos de canasta: http://www.streetgourmetla.com/2011/01/tacos-de-canastawattsca-sweaty-tacos.html

LOS ANGELES COUNTY MUSEUM OF ART (LACMA) LATIN AMERICAN CULTURE EVENT

Saturday, April 14 at 2:00PM: Talk on the Children of the Plumed Serpent about the ancient Nahua, Mixtec, and Zapotec civilizations of southern Mexico that shows that the fall of the Aztec Empire in 1521 signaled the rise of another civilization whose legacy survives to this day. For more information visit: http://www.lacma.org/event/lecture-plumed-serpent

For more info: uscsusa@gmail.com or http://www.facebook.com/?ref=tn_tnmn#!/pages/SUSA-USC/188411754563273

UndocuQueer: Intersecting Identities in Youth Activism

Tuesday, April 17, 2012 | 12:30pm | El Centro Chicano, 3rd Fl United University Church

Join Professor Arely Zimmerman and CALAS (Chicana/o and Latina/o American Studies) as they host prominent youth leaders in the DREAMER movement who have come out as undocumented and unafraid and queer and unashamed as well as their allies.

This event is sponsored by Chicana/o and Latina/o Studies, IDEAS Movement at USC, the Queer and Ally Student Assembly, and El Centro Chicano. Light snacks and refreshments will be provided.

For more info: http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=504553980&ref=tn_tnmn#!/events/338669476182142/