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rEvista: A Multi-media, Multi-genre e-Journal for Social Justice

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Journal

rEvista: A Multi-media, Multi-genre e-Journal for Social Justice, 1(3)

Author

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Publication Date

2010

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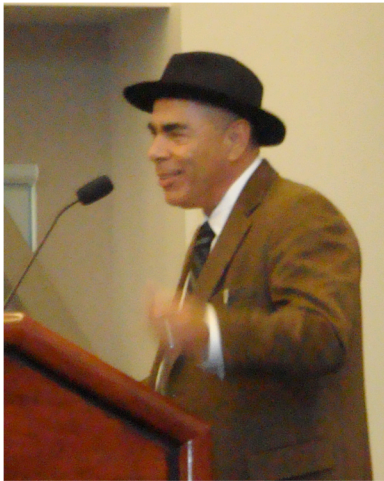
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LITERARY GREATS VISIT UCSB

The 8th annual Luis Leal Award for Distinction in Chicano/Latino Literature was awarded on October 28, 2010 to Jimmy Santiago Baca. Named after Professor Luis Leal who died in early 2010 at the age of 102 and who was one of the pioneers in the study of Chicano literature, the award honors a writer on Chicano/Latino subjects who has achieved national and international acclaim through a substantial body of work.

Jimmy Santiago Baca, a native of New Mexico, is a powerful and courageous voice as a poet, short story writer, memoir writer, essayist, and novelist. His subjects are his people of New Mexico, the mestizos, Indo-Hispanos of that region who trace their ancestry to that land for several generations but who are as new as those Mexican immigrants who crossed the border today. Baca writes from his own experiences as a survivor amongst a people too long marginalized in American society. His is a voice that we very much need and appreciate. From impoverished conditions to an orphanage to the penitentiary, Baca survived and learned the power of



Jimmy Santiago Baca and Sandra Cisneros give talks co-sponsored by the Department of Chican@ Studies.

literacy and of writing and has become one of the major poets and writers in the United States.

Baca has written more than eleven volumes of poetry. In 2001 he published his gripping and powerful autobiography [A Place to Stand](#). In 2009, he published his first novel [A Glass of Water](#).

For his outstanding work, Baca has won numerous prestigious awards and honors including a National Endowment for the Arts Literary Fellowship, the American Book Award for Poetry, the Wallace Stevens Endowed Chair at Yale University, and the International Hispanic Heritage Award.

Devoted not only to his writing, Baca established Cedar Tree, Inc., a nonprofit foundation that conducts

(continued on Page 2)



Cisneros's forthcoming book, *Writing in Your Pajamas*. She introduced selected readings from the work-in-progress with comments on her community service work, encouraging everyone to pick up a pen and paper and engage the art of literature. 'Write the first draft as if you are talking to your best friend.

Completely honest.

Like you were comfortable talking to them even wearing pajamas.'

The audience was enthralled as Cisneros read a short story following the narrator through her community in search of both a lost cat and the company of her recently deceased mother. The audience was also treated to a fictional window into the life of Frida Kahlo and her relationship with Diego Rivera. Cisneros's voice was melodic and inviting

(continued on Page 5)

Her slippers shuffling across the stage, Sandra Cisneros

approached the podium in bright blue pajamas sporting multi-colored polka dots. Hundreds of students accompanied by community members (one stating in the Q&A session that he traveled from Los Angeles), staff, and faculty filled Campbell Hall Tuesday evening, November 17, 2010 to hear "Writing in the Time of Mexiphobia, or Packing Your Papers." Cisneros didn't focus heavily on immigration themes, polling the audience, identifying very young members, and continuing with a "G-Rated" version of her thoughts (to the partial disappointment of some who came to hear Cisneros on something related to her 199X collection of poetry, *Loose Women*).

Her less-than-formal attire reflected the title of

inside:

Chair's Message
Gloria Anzaldúa
Faculty Spotlight
Graduate Corner
Mayan Sudoku



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Como decia mi papá, “pareces disco rayado,” whenever I found myself so overly excited about a project that I could not restrain myself from talking about it. As we end another quarter, my Chair’s message continues to be the same—this is a great department with extraordinary accomplishments and every quarter we keep raking in new and exciting developments. For this quarter I want to highlight the intellectual and research activities of our faculty and graduate students.

First of all, I would like to thank Professor Mario Garcia and our ace graduate assistants Jessica Lopez Lyman and Eddy Alvarez who worked as a team to organize an outstanding colloquium series. The “colloquium team,” as they call themselves, coordinated a distinguished panel of speakers that included historians, community activists, political scientists, creative writers, members of our faculty, and graduate students. Every Wednesday we took a “Sip of Knowledge” (yo mas diria, un jarrote de sabiduría) in the company of faculty, graduate students from across campus, staff, as well as visitors from outside the campus.

There are two presentations in particular I would like to highlight. The first is the presentation by Jimmy Santiago Baca, this year’s recipient of the annual Luis Leal Award for Distinction in Chicano/Latino Literature. Professor Mario Garcia chairs the award committee. In addition to Sr. Baca’s plática at the department’s colloquium, he spoke to an audience of over 600 students, faculty, staff, and community members. It was a wonderful experience to witness young people’s inspiration fueled to use their own lives and communities to become the next generation of writers. The second presentation was by Sandra Cisneros, the renowned Chicana writer who also spoke to an audience of close to 800 urging young people to “write like you are in your pajamas, at your kitchen table, talking to your best friend and then edit, edit, and then edit again.” Earlier in the day of Ms Cisneros’ presentation, a group of our graduate students presented at the department’s colloquium series exploring the significance of Ms Cisneros’ work.

The department is also linking its intellectual activities to our local community. On her first day on campus, Ms Cisneros attended a dinner with supporters of our department. The event was organized by Professor Maria Herrera-Sobek, Associate Vice Chancellor of Diversity, Equity and Academic Policy, and by Michael Miller, Director of Development. In attendance were Paula Lopez, local news anchor and reporter, Honorable Frank Ochoa Jr., Santa Barbara Superior Court Judge, Al Pizano, Chair of the

Hispanic Achievement Council in Santa Barbara, and a representative from Santa Barbara 1st District Supervisor Salud Carabajal’s Office.

Our goal through all of these related activities is for Chicana and Chicano intellectual production to touch young people’s lives to inspire them to become the next generation of leaders in all fields. We want to open the university’s doors to invite those who have gone through its halls to come back to help us with our mission. We believe that the spirit of Chicana and Chicano Studies is in the blurring of boundaries so that knowledge can benefit all. It was a good quarter.

In solidarity,
Aída Hurtado
Chair of the Department of Chicana/o Studies and Luis Leal Endowed Chair

BACA, cont. from Page 1
literacy workshops in prisons and detention centers and at schools for at-risk youth.

The Leal Award was co-sponsored by various entities at UCSB including the Office of the Chancellor, the Associate Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity, and Academic Policy, the Office of Equal Opportunity & Sexual Harassment, the Chicano Studies Institute, the Luis Leal Endowed Chair, and the Department of Chicana and Chicano Studies.

(by Mario Garcia)

UP-COMING EVENTS:
Don’t miss our

CHST COLLOQUIUM SERIES
3:30 – 5 pm
Dolores Huerta Gathering Room, 1623 South Hall
Every Wednesday during Winter Quarter.

**UCSB
CHICANA/O STUDIES**

Department Faculty

- Gerardo Aldana
- Ralph Armbruster-Sandoval
- Edwina Barvosa
- Dolores Inés Casillas
- Mario Garcia
- María Herrera-Sobek
- Aída Hurtado
- Francisco Lomeli
- Horacio Roque Ramirez
- Chela Sandoval
- Tara Yosso

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- Gerardo Aldana
- Dolores Inés Casillas
- Aída Hurtado



Representatives from the Department of Chicana and Chicano Studies attended El Mundo Zurdo : An International Conference on the Life and Work of Gloria E. Anzaldúa - Art & Performance, organized by the Society for the Study of Gloria Anzaldúa and the Women's Studies Institute at the University of Texas at San Antonio in collaboration with Trinity University and The Esperanza Peace and Justice Center on November 4-6, 2010.

Department Chair Aída Hurtado participated in the round table discussion titled "Bridging: How Gloria Anzaldúa's Work Transformed us (A Conversation between Humanities and Social Sciences)" with AnaLouise Keating, Suzanne Bost, Elisa Facio, and Gloria González-López. She moderated a panel called "Anzaldúa's Borderlands, Nepantla, and Conocimiento in Action" in which she also presented with Mrinal Sinha. The presentation was called "The Transformative Power of Anzaldúa's Borderlands." Finally, Dr. Hurtado moderated a panel of our department's graduate students called "Inner Work/Public Acts: Anzaldúa and Cultural Production." The panelists included Amber Rose González who presented "Inner Work/Public Acts: Students on the Path of Conocimiento," Jessica López Lyman who presented "Witnessing Performance Poetry in the Classroom," Nicholas Centino who presented "Aang's Arrebato: World Traveling and Conocimiento in the World of Avatar: *The Last Airbender*" and Adrianna M. Santos who presented "Chicana Writers and the Mestiza Way: Steps Toward Ending Violence."

Professor of Chicana and Chicano Studies Edwina Barvosa, also participated on a panel moderated by Norma Alarcón, "Pláticas and Analysis of Gloria Anzaldúa's Thought." The title of the presentation was "Beyond Unity to Solidarity in Gloria Anzaldúa's Thought: Exploring the Relationship between Mestiza Consciousness & Sustained Cohesion in Social Movements."



EL MUNDO ZURDO



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Associate Professor Tara Yosso

Professor Tara Yosso joined the faculty in 2001. Prior to that, she earned her Ph.D. at UC Los Angeles in Education. Professor Yosso examines the educational pipeline from a Critical Race Theory perspective using counterstories. She recently published "Cause It's Not Just Me': Walkout's History Lessons Challenge Hollywood's Urban High School Formula." (Radical History Review, 102, 2008, 171-184) and is currently teaching CHST 191TJ "Critical Transitions in Chicana/o Education."

CHST: What are the most exciting trends in your field?

TY: It is very exciting to see how critical race theory and counterstorytelling are being applied in education; to see the ways students are blurring the lines between activism and scholarship.

CHST: What research projects have you not been able to get to, but still peak your interest?

TY: I am working on a book about the ways Hollywood portrayals of Latinas/os in schools project troubling racial myths that seem to justify educational policies

restricting access and opportunity for African American and Chicana/o youth.

CHST: Who were two unique contributors to your academic aspirations and formation?

TY: As a sophomore at UCLA, I took an upper division course "Mexican Americans and the Schools," and the professor in that course, Daniel G. Solórzano, gave a presentation on stereotypes via a slide show of pictures he had taken in his travels throughout the U.S. I then did a paper in that class about the ways film stereotypes of Mexicans reinforce negative views of Chicana/o students. I went on to create an individual major "Social Psychology of Education with an Emphasis in Chicana/o Studies." And my senior thesis (directed by Solórzano) included interviews with Latina/o filmmakers who acknowledged and engaged the teaching power of film. I also remember learning so much from the students in the class, and being excited about the critical language and research I was reading, which helped me make sense of so much I had been concerned about in my own schooling experiences. This research was challenging and meaningful to me! Solórzano also included a service-learning component to the class, so I volunteered at Jefferson High School in Los Angeles for the quarter. This led me to eventually connect my work-study to be a bilingual aid at other schools, such as Lennox Middle School. Reflecting back now, it was this class, my first Chicana/o Studies course, the professor,

(cont. Page 6)

GRADUATE CORNER

We've turned over this space to Department of Chicana@ Studies graduate students. This is their news corner, and will likely change from quarter to quarter.

Thomas Carrasco, Nicholas Centino, Sara Hinojos, Marla Ramirez, and Cristina Serna were recipients of the University of California Diversity Initiative for Graduate Study in the Social Sciences (UC DIGSSS) National Science Foundation (NSF) 2010 Summer Research Award.

Amber Rose González defended her dissertation proposal and advanced to candidacy in September 2010. Her dissertation is titled "Another City is Possible: Mujeres de Maíz, Spiritual Activism and the Cultivation of Sacred Spaces in Los Angeles." She is currently teaching a course on Indigenous women and cultural production in the feminist studies department, where she is also working on a doctoral emphasis.

Carisa Prieto Cortez received her Master's Degree in Chicana/o Studies this Fall.

Jessie Turner, a fourth year Ph.D.candidate, taught her first course, Oral History: Theories and Methods, in Summer 2010, and she is excited to attend the first Critical Mixed Race Studies Conference, hosted at DePaul University in November, at which she will present a paper entitled "Mestiz@ or Multiracial? Parallels and Divergences of New Mixed Identity Models." Jessie also reviewed Stephanie Elizondo

Griest's *Mexican Enough: My Life Between the Borderlines* (2008) for the Spring 2011 edition of *Aztlán: A Journal of Chicano Studies*.

Adrianna Michelle Santos taught her first class, Chicana Writers, over the summer. She went ABD in the Fall and is writing her dissertation and working as an intern at the UCSB Women's Center doing outreach to Women of Color and Grad Students.

EL MUNDO ZURDO

Photographs

Top Picture, from left to right: Amber Gonzalez, Aida Hurtado, Jessica Lopez Lyman, Nicholas Centino, and Adrianna Santos

Lower Picture, from left to right: Professors Elisa Linda Facio (University of Colorado, Boulder), Aida Hurtado (UCSB), Suzanne Bost (Loyola University), Analouise Keating (Texas Women's University), and Gloria Gonzalez-Lopez (University of Texas, Austin).



EDITORIAL

BY GERARDO ALDANA,
Newsletter Co-editor

BUT WHY 2012?

José Arguelles was a Chicano studying Art History at the University of Chicago in the early 1970s. He focused his studies on Mesoamerican art at about the time that the decipherment of the Mayan hieroglyphic script entered its early productive phase. Arguelles was also a cultural critic, raising ethical concerns about modern science and technology. Within Mayan astronomy, it appears he found an opportunity to resolve his modern concerns and feed his ancient interests. Arguelles's interpretations of Mayan astronomy in *The Mayan Factor*—before the decipherment had come to fruition—set the basis for modern 2012 “prophecies.”

My take on what Arguelles confronted, and on the interpretation of ancient Mesoamerica in general, is that we are up against the core of the Subaltern Studies project described by Gayatri Spivak in “Can the Subaltern Speak?” I realize of course that ancient Maya rulers were subordinate to no one (except occasionally to each other as local politics would have it), so that “subaltern” is not technically the right term. But in my estimation the role of representation in the two

cases stem from similar complications.

That is, even though Classic Maya rulers were able to produce representations of themselves and of their interests to Classic Mayan populations, none of these representations is available to modern culture—all first must be translated through new representations by modern interpreters. Despite appearances, Classic Maya hegemony cannot speak for themselves.

Beyond the immediate problems of an ancient language and complex and unfamiliar artistic imagery, anything we see today passes through hundreds of years of religious, political, economic, and racial contestation. “Pagans,” “primitive,” “human sacrifice,” “stone-age technology,” “indios.” All of these terms generate barriers to accessing indigenous experiences—barriers that are woven throughout modern common sense(s). We don’t see the ancient Maya through 2012 prophecies or modern scholarship—we see the representations that the representor/representative provides to us.

When it comes to academic or 2012 representations, the ones that sell are the ones available to the public. In order to get at something close to an accurate representation of ancient

Mayan culture, then, we have to get past the philosophical barriers identified by Jacques Derrida (and further articulated by Spivak), the socio-political subordination of Mesoamerican and indigenous people over the last 500 years, and the consumer market’s appetite for esoteria.

So why 2012? My thoughts are that it represents a point of articulation between the traditional scholarship and the popularizations. Traditional scholarship has made a point of emphasizing the accuracy of Mayan astronomy as a marker of its cultural appraisal. Popularizers have capitalized on this purported accuracy to extend the representation to include the fantastic and the profitable. Throw in a convenient deadline and you have a perfect storm, disastrous for representations of the Classic Maya.

So while my article on the Maya calendar correlation problem (*Calendars and Years II*, Oxbow Books, 2010) was in no way directly motivated by the issues around 2012—and doesn’t address them explicitly—it does result in the final dismissal that any such “prophecy” has origins in Mayan culture. Yet while the article puts a nail in the coffin of 2012 interpretations, my hope is that it will motivate a corrective measure on the scholarship on Maya

astronomy within the academy as well. My hope is that it further delineates the intellectual problem we are up against in the study of ancient Mesoamerica. And that it demonstrates the need for more concerted interaction between Ethnic and Subaltern Studies and the archaeology of indigenous cultures.

CISNEROS, cont. from Page 1 throughout, and she attentively responded to audience questions for a short period before the close of the event, which took the form of a huge line of readers interested in having Cisneros sign their personal copies of her work.

Sandra Cisneros is the author of *The House on Mango Street*, *Women Hollering Creek*, and recently, *Caramelo*, among much else. She has received numerous awards including a MacArthur Foundation “genius” grant.

The event was sponsored by the Center for New Racial Studies; the Chicano Studies Institute; the College of Creative Studies; the Comparative Literature Program; the departments of Chicana and Chicano Studies; English; Feminist Studies; Germanic, Slavic and Semitic Studies; Linguistics; and Spanish and Portuguese; Latin American and Iberian Studies; the Luis Leal Endowed Chair in Chicano Studies; the MultiCultural Center; the Office of the Associate Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity and Academic Policy; the Office of the Executive Vice Chancellor; the Office of Equal Opportunity & Sexual Harassment/Title IX Compliance; and the Writing Program.

RECENT DEPARTMENTAL SCHOLARLY ACTIVITY

(Not an exhaustive list)

Horacio Roque Ramirez

"Homoerotic, Lesbian, and Gay Ethnic and Immigrant Histories." Special Issue of the *Journal of American Ethnic History*. Guest Editor. Summer 2010 (29, no. 4).

"Gay Latino Histories/Dying to Be Remembered: AIDS Obituaries, Public Memories, and the Gay Latino Archive." In *Beyond el Barrio: Everyday Life in Latina/o America*. Edited by Gina M. Pérez, Frank Guridy, and Adrian Burgos Jr. NYU Press, New York, 2010.

Francisco Lomeli

"Origins and Evolution of Homies as Hip Cultural Artifacts: Taking the Homies out of the Barrio or the Barrio Out of the Homies." Department of Chican@ Studies Colloquium, Oct 13, 2010.

"The Sense of Space in Villagrà's HISTORIA DE LA NUEVA MEXICO," in 400 Years of Literature and History in the U.S.: Gaspar de Villagrà's HISTORIA DE LA NUEVA MEXICO (1610). Presented at UC Merced, October 22, 2010.

Mario Garcia

"Transculturation, Memory, and History: Mary Helen Ponce's 'Hoyt Street--An Autobiography'." Paper delivered at the Conference on Chicano Literature, National University of Ireland, Maynooth, May 25, 2010.

"Mexican Americans in U.S. History," Paper delivered at the International Workshop on Minority Groups in the U.S. and China, Tufts University, June 26, 2010.

Dolores Inés Casillas

"Puuurrrrooo MEXICO!: Listening to Transnationalism on U.S. Spanish-language Radio." In *Beyond el Barrio: Everyday Life in Latina/o America*. Edited by Gina M. Pérez, Frank Guridy, and Adrian Burgos Jr. NYU Press, New York, 2010.

Hellman Family Faculty Award, UCSB funding reserved for junior faculty whose research shows great promise.

Ralph Armbruster-Sandoval

"A People's History of Los Angeles: the Brown/Black Metropolis—Is another Los Angeles Possible?" *Latino Studies*, 8, Summer 2010, 271-283.

Gerardo Aldana

"The Maya Calendar Correlation Problem." In *Calendars and Years II: Astronomy and Time in the Ancient and Medieval World*. Edited by John Steele. Oxbow Books, Oxford, 2010.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT (cont.)

my peers, my service-learning experience, which really inspired me and shaped the scholar I have become.

CHST: You have a young child and a partner who also works full time. Do you have any rituals that help you keep the balance?

TY: My daughter just turned two and my partner is now a professor at another UC campus, so balance is something we're still working on. My 2009 article in the *Harvard Educational Review* was mainly written between 1am and 4am, when everyone was asleep, and I became an expert in writing emails with one hand, while holding the baby and/or nursing. I try to regularly call good friends, many of whom are also moms, and we share stories and laughs about our efforts to forge a balance between academia and familia.

CHST: You recently received tenure; has that affected your scholarship? If so, how?

TY: I earned tenure in June 2007, but I did not wait until tenure to pursue the kind of research that I was passionate about. It is certainly a privilege to be a tenured professor at a Research I institution like UCSB, but I see it as a great responsibility to ensure the institution serves the needs of historically underserved communities. I work to make my research accessible to multiple audiences and I have received a lot of support from the Chancellors Outreach Advisory Board and the Chicano Studies Institute to

develop my research into programs serving the community, such as an arts college readiness program with high school students in Oxnard (*ArtReach*) and an annual conference aimed at increasing the numbers of Chicana/o students (mainly from East Los Angeles and Oxnard) who transfer to the UC and pursue graduate degrees (*Cultivating Semillas from the Community College to UCSB*).

CHST: Did you make any promises to yourself based on receiving tenure? Did you keep them?

TY: I feel very blessed to have a family and tenure. I try to maintain the same level of productivity I've had, but to enjoy the time I spend with my family more now, without putting extra pressure on myself that I should be working on that next article.

CHST: Where did you grow up and do you think it has an impact on what you do today?

TY: San Jose, CA, and yes, I dedicated my book *Critical race counterstories along the Chicana/Chicano educational pipeline* to a family I knew growing up whose children were being failed at every level by the school system. The schools either could not recognize or simply ignored the cultural knowledges, skills, abilities, and networks these children had. Seeing how a potentially liberating institution like school can become a place of disempowerment for youth like it was for this family continues to fuel my work.

¡NEW(S) CONTEST!

Send in your suggestions for a CHST Newsletter Contest.
Photo of the quarter? Poetry contest? (Very) Short Stories?
What do you want to see?

Submission ideas and the **WINNING** entry will be chosen by the editors and published in our next newsletter.

What do you win? We don't know yet! (CHST t-shirt? Mug? Other?) Send your entries and prize suggestions to: ucsbchstnews@gmail.com

MAYAN SUDOKU, 03

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See You At



**NACCS 2011
PASADENA, CA
MARCH 30 - APRIL 2**

CONTACT US!

With community or alumni news items, to provide comments, or just to get back in touch.

ucsbchstnews@gmail.com

SUPPORT US!

In this time of budgetary crisis, any contribution is welcome, from \$5 toward student scholarships to \$10,000 toward an endowed professorial chair.

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