UC MEXUS Establishes Headquarters Office at UCR

"... The University of California, because of its stature, size and proximity to Mexico, can fulfill what should be a national goal, namely, to found a truly distinguished center for the collaborative pursuit of scholarly projects of interest to both the United States and Mexico. ... These goals are grand. ... Such an MRFU is not achieved full-term simply by formal approval, but by sustained dedication and hard work, hard work that must be a commitment of all participating campuses and all of us. But in planning beginnings, we must look to ends, and ends should not be modest."

— Chancellor Tomás Rivera, May 3, 1984

Following a unanimous action by the UC MEXUS Executive Committee, the UC MEXUS administrative offices were permanently relocated to the University of California, Riverside, on July 23, 1984. The Executive Committee’s decision was made in response to a proposal from the late Chancellor Tomás Rivera, who was firmly committed to the potential of UC MEXUS as “a unique facility for international exchange and scholarship,” and convinced of the appropriateness of its location at Riverside.

Rivera’s commitment to UC MEXUS, issued less than two weeks before his unexpected death on May 16, 1984, reflected his lifelong interest in the bicultural presence of Mexicans in American society. A gifted poet and professor of Romance languages and literatures, Rivera was internationally recognized for his work in Spanish-American and Mexican-American language and literature and in the education of Mexican Americans. His personal and professional convictions, coupled with the Riverside campus’ long-established interest in Mexico-related activities, prompted Rivera’s proposal that UC MEXUS relocate its headquarters to Riverside and pursue formal Multi-Campus Research Unit (MRFU) status from that base. To this end, Rivera committed certain resources and actions to the support of UC MEXUS, including the allocation of appropriate space, the administration of the UC MEXUS office until a director is appointed, assurance that the publications of UC MEXUS will continue to be produced, the allocation of a

Mexican Studies/Estudios Mexicanos First Issue Announced

Executive Editor Jaime Rodriguez has announced that the first number of the informative scholarly journal, Mexican Studies/Estudios Mexicanos will appear in early 1985. The new journal is a cooperative venture of UC Mexus and UNAM and will be published and owned by the University of California Press.

PROFMEX Board Meets in Cozumel

(please turn to page 2)

Published by The UCLA Program on Mexico, University of California, Los Angeles, for UC MEXUS, in cooperation with

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UC MEXUS Headquarters

(continued from page 1)

senior faculty FTE to the appropriate Riverside disciplinary department for a director, a national search for a director of international stature, and cooperative activities in the development of a proposal for MURU status.

According to Executive Committee Chair David J. Sánchez, Jr. (UCSF), who heads the UC MEXUS team appointed to coordinate details of the transition, Riverside's commitments to UC MEXUS have been reaffirmed by the new campus administration, and plans for the headquarters office, staff, and the director search have proceeded smoothly. Executive Vice Chancellor Theodore Hullar, who assumed his post at Riverside on July 1, 1984, has appointed Kathryn L. Roberts as Assistant Director of UC MEXUS. Roberts, former Assistant to the Dean of Graduate Studies and Research at Irvine, and staff analyst to the UC MEXUS NRU Subcommittee, reports administratively to Acting Chancellor Daniel G. Aldrich, Jr., through Hullar. The appointment of Roberts serves as an important link between the UC MEXUS Executive Committee and the Riverside campus. More recently, Patricia A. Perez has been appointed to a secretarial position in the headquarters office. A student in Riverside's MBA program, Perez also holds a BA in sociology from Riverside.

It is the Executive Committee's expectation that the Director's search will begin soon. Until a director of UC MEXUS is appointed, the Chair of UC MEXUS will act as interim director. Former Executive Vice Chancellor Carlton R. Boveill has been appointed by Hullar to serve as a special liaison to the Executive Committee and to assist in the development of the proposal for MURU status.

UC MEXUS Executive Committee Vice Chair David G. Sweet (UCSC), who will chair the Committee during the remainder of the transitional period, beginning in January 1985, notes that the University of California already includes several of the leading centers of Mexican and Chicano studies, and has encouraged some of the most productive examples of U.S.-Mexican scientific collaboration in the United States today. He is confident that the proposed MURU will enhance and complement these efforts, encourage the development of new intercampus and international undertakings, and greatly increase the potential for the extramural funding of Mexico-related projects by University of California scholars in all disciplines.

UC MEXUS NEWS

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1201 Campbell Hall
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UC MEXUS NEWS is published quarterly by the Fall, Winter, Spring, and Summer by the University of California Corporation on Mexico and the United States (UC MEXUS) at 1201 Campbell Hall, UCLA 405 Hilgard Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90024. (213) 258-5500.

Second class postage paid at Los Angeles, CA, USA 90095. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to UC MEXUS, UCLA, 1201 Campbell Hall, 405 Hilgard Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90024.

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Universitywide News

UCB — Universidad de Guadalajara Health Study

Mexican citizens who come to the United States are not a drain on county health resources according to a study carried out jointly by researchers at UCB and the Universidad de Guadalajara (UGA). A survey of 307 Mexican citizens who were in the United States legally or illegally in 1983 found that only 5.8 percent received medical care at a county hospital. Seventy-five percent experienced some illness while in the United States, but only 42.5 percent sought medical treatment. One-third of those interviewed paid for private medical care with insurance or their own funds.

"These findings strongly contradict the stereotype of immigrant workers fleeing to county hospitals for free medical care," said David Hayes-Bautista of UCB's School of Public Health. Another finding was that many of the Mexican citizens' illnesses were job related. Hayes-Bautista noted that the illness data conflict with the stereotype of Mexican immigrants having high levels of communicable diseases.

In the collaborative study, Mexican physicians interviewed the 307 participants in their home villages—Tepehuanes, Tepic, and El Salto in the state of Jalisco—where they could freely discuss their experiences in the United States. Researchers asked participants about symptoms they had experienced and whether they had sought medical treatment.

Fears that illegal aliens abuse the United States health system affect national legislation, such as the Simpson-Mazzoli bill, and local health care provision. Some county hospitals will not treat patients without proof of residency, for fear of overloading their services, Hayes-Bautista said. He branded such fears groundless and harmful. "Stereotypes are the contrary, our sample shows that Mexicans who come to the United States temporarily—whether documented or undocumented—are largely not seeking public sector services. To generate legislation based on that stereotype is to base it on a situation which does not seem to exist," he said.

Hayes-Bautista believes there is a substantial need for health services among "nonpermanent immigrants" that is not being met.

This study is the first major project of the Centro de Estudios de Salud Latina (CESLA). The CESLA program, run by faculty from UCB's School of Public Health, was established in January 1983 to provide advanced training to Latinos in the United States and persons from Latin America. It also pools health research interests and data on the special needs of the Latino population.

The study was funded by UC MEXUS.

UCSD's Fourth Annual Briefing Session for Professional Journalists

Over fifty journalists from the print and electronic media met at UCSD on June 16-19, 1984, to participate in the Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies' Fourth Annual Briefing Session for Professional Journalists. The session was organized as part of the Center's outreach program by Donald Wyman.

A session moderated by Frank del Olmo (The Los Angeles Times) featured Wayne Cornelius and James Fallowes (The Atlantic Monthly), both of whom spoke on the implications of the Simpson-Mazzoli immigration legislation would have on the United States. The speakers agreed that even though immigration from Mexico may have positive economic benefits in the United States, the most deeply seated opposition to Mexican immigrants stems from concerns about their possible influence on United States culture and society.

Alan Robinson (Euromoney magazine) and Luis Rubio (Instituto de Banca y Finanzas, Mexico City) directed their attention to Mexico's economic recovery and debt situation. They noted that while Mexico intends to pursue growth during the next few years, that strategy requires an increase in imports at the same time as Mexico has become a net exporter of capital. Richard Chavez (Time Magazine) moderated a panel featuring Barry Carr (La Trobe University, Australia) and Richard Sinkin (U of Austin), both of whom were visiting Research Fellows at UCSD. Discussing the politics of austerity in Mexico, Carr observed that organized labor and the left have not mounted a serious challenge to the government's austerity program despite a massive and rapid drop in real wages, and suggested why this is so. Sinkin analyzed five major challenges that serve to hold the Mexican political system together in the face of severe economic crisis.

Dan Holton (UCSD) and Martin Diskin (MIT) critiqued media coverage of events in Central America and stimulated a vigorous discussion among fellow panelists Christopher Dickey (The Washington Post), Laurie Kasman (The Voice of America, Mexico City), Richard Kiplinger (The San Diego Union), and panel moderator Gerald Warren (Editor in Chief, The San Diego Union). Dickey also participated in a panel on Mexico, the United States, and Central America, and opined that Reagan administration arguments to the contrary, the United States has no military strategic interests in Central America, that the current administration policy toward the region is really a proxy for the tough stance that it cannot adopt with respect to its real objective—Cubas. Edward Gonzales (UCLA) argued to the contrary and described what he views as the serious strategic stakes for the United States in the region. Mario Ojeda (COLMEX) said that the United States and Mexico do not share the same goals and objectives in Central America: the United States is seeking to re-establish its hegemony in the region, Mexico wants to reduce conflict there. Charles
UCSD Research Seminar Begins Fifth Year

On September 26 the Research Seminar on Mexico and U.S.-Mexican Relations of UCSD began its fifth year. The opening session was attended by Richard Frederick, Deputy Director of the U.S. Treasury Department’s Office of Policy Development. Frederick reported on his research concerning alternative approaches to U.S.-economic assistance to “advanced developing” countries in Latin America. Since the fall of 1980, the interdisciplinary Research Seminar has met each week during the academic year to hear research presentations by the UCSD Center’s visiting scholars and staff as well as distinguished guests. These have come from the United States, Mexico, and several other countries. Faculty and students from other universities are invited to attend these seminar meetings, which are held Wednesdays from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. in the Institute of the Americas building on the UCSD campus.

Other researchers who addressed the Seminar during the fall quarter discussed various aspects of Mexico’s economic crisis and development strategy. They included ten of the Center’s newly arrived Visiting Research Fellows for 1990. David Felix (professor of economics, Washington University) spoke on October 3 on “Financial Flow-Ups and the Neoliberal Regimes in Latin America.”

Carlos Tello, who has served in recent years as Mexico’s Secretary of Budget and Planning and as head of the Mexican central bank, continued the discussion of financial crisis on October 10. Tello’s current research deals with the development policy options of Mexico and other Latin American countries which have experienced financial crises in the 1980s.

On October 17, former UCSF Visiting Research Fellow Barry Carr returned to La Trobe University in Melbourne, Australia to present his research. Carr has conducted research on the political strategies of the Mexican Left in the post-1968 period. Jeffrey Brotz, historian and labor statistician from the Universidad Autonoma Metropolitana in Mexico City, spoke October 24, discussing his research on wage policies and the economic crisis in Mexico. On October 31, Jane Kurtzman presented a discussion on the results of Mexican government family planning efforts since 1980.

Over twenty faculty and junior high school teachers from school districts in San Diego county participated in a week-long seminar at UCSD. The seminar, organized by the Latin American Studies Educational Resources (LASER) Project, was hosted by the Institute of the Americas at UCSD from June 25 to June 29, 1984. The LASER Project is a collaborative effort of the Center for Latin American Studies at San Diego State University, the College of Education at SDSU, the UCSD Center, and other educational agencies in San Diego County.

The LASER Project is designed to improve the quality of world affairs education in public schools through cooperation with school systems (consisting of classroom teachers, resource personnel, and administrators). It utilizes the study of Mexico and Latin America as a natural and logical point of entry to international studies for teachers and students in the border region. Specific programs offered by the LASER Project include a Teaching Resource Center (located at the Center for Latin American Studies at SDSU), housing a lending library of high-quality pre-collegiate curriculum materials; a newsletter providing current information about related programs and resources at the local, state, and national levels; and in-service training workshops.

The summer Institute was led by Elsi Siegel (SDSU), Director of the LA- SER Project, and Robert Freeman of the Bay Area Global Education Program. Sessions included the teaching of basic concepts in global education, demonstrations of curriculum materials available from the LASER Teaching Resource Center, and strategies for promoting interest in improved teaching of Latin America and world affairs at local schools. Several scholars led sessions on specific issue areas, including Jorge Bustamante (CEFOMEX), who discussed recent Mexican migration to the United States; Wayne Connell (UCSD), who spoke on political developments and prospects for the 1980s in Mexico and several other Latin American countries; Charles Reilly (UCSD), who discussed development projects and political and economic factors affecting their success; and Donald Wyman (UCSD), whose talk provided a general historical context for the other presentations.

The training received at the summer Institute was meant to stimulate a growing sense of competence among a core group of teachers designated by their districts as leaders in staff development programs dealing with Latin American and world affairs. The LASER Project is supported by grants from the Tinker and Hewlett Foundations, and the U.S. De- partment of Education, Title VI. For further information, contact: Elsi Siegel, LASER Project, Center for Latin Ameri- can Studies, San Diego State University, San Diego, CA 92182, or Donald L. Wyman, Center for U.S.-Mexican Stud- ies, D-010, UCSD, La Jolla, CA 92037.

In receiving an award of $50,000, the U.S. Information Agency for the next two academic years, UCLA has under- taken to train link-by-link analysts of Mexican society, change, joint research, and the shared hosting of seminars and conferences with the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico (UNAM) in Mexico City and with the Universidad Autonoma de Baja California, Tijuana. During the period 1984-1986, in one aspect of the award, UCLA, UNAM, and the University of California, San Diego, held a two-week seminar on Mexican history. UCLA publishes the yearly Statistical Abstract of Latin America and its Supplement Sheet, both under the editorship of James W. Wilkie (who chairs the Linkages Grant). Thus, with its experience of conducting research in quantitative history UCLA is working with the two Mexican universities to prepare long-term series that chart change in Mexico’s social and economic realities.

In a second aspect of the award, funds are being awarded to UCLA to support a Project on the Mexican frontier. The Project, led by the Mexican historians’ Historical Institute of the Americas, is a multidisciplinary team of scholars from both the universities. The Project director is Yodi J. De la Rosa, and the Project is based in Mexico City. The Project is designed to bring together researchers from the United States and Mexico to work on a variety of topics related to the Mexican frontier. The Project aims to produce a comprehensive database on the Mexican frontier, focusing on topics such as migration, land use, and trade. The Project will also produce a series of reports and articles that will be published in a variety of academic journals. The Project is expected to continue for three years, with a total budget of $400,000.

In addition to the Project on the Mexican frontier, UCLA is also supporting a Project on the American borderlands. The American borderlands Project is a joint venture between UCLA and the University of Arizona. The Project aims to bring together scholars from both universities to work on a variety of topics related to the American borderlands. The Project is designed to produce a comprehensive database on the American borderlands, focusing on topics such as migration, land use, and trade. The Project will also produce a series of reports and articles that will be published in a variety of academic journals. The Project is expected to continue for three years, with a total budget of $400,000.
International News

Commission of the Californias Meeting

The Commission of the Californias met in Long Beach, California, on November 15-17 to deal with a range of topics important to the three Californias—California, Baja California and Baja Califor- nia Sur. The governors from all three states were present at the meeting.

Governor George Deukmejian of California, who had served on the commission as a state senator, discussed the achievements of the group in his remarks at the opening ceremonies. Deukmejian cited the building of the new international border crossing near San Diego as a major success story and the result of an effort that began with the Commission of the Californias. He reaffirmed his pledge to carry out the commitment of the commission, stressing that "open and frank dialogue is the foundation that supports the strong bonds between us."

Governor Xicoténcatl Leyva Mora de Baja California underlined the importance of the commission’s work in fostering collaboration among the "hermanos patrios." Governor Alberto Alvarez Aramburo noted in his remarks the common origins of the three Californias in La Misión in the eighteenth century and stressed the need for good will and understanding in resolving common problems of the three states.

The Commission of the Californias is constituted by representatives of the states of California, Baja California, and Baja California Sur with the purpose of mutually seeking to foster and develop the social, economic, and cultural improvement of the member states. The commission was established by Governor Edmund G. Brown of California and Governor Eligio Esguível Méndez of Baja California in 1964. Four years later, Baja California Sur was admitted as a fully participating member of the commission.

Important to the functioning of the commission is the work of the committees whose members are appointed by the three governors. The committees deal with specific issues of importance to the Californias. The committees produce resolutions which, if approved by the commission, are then forwarded as recommendations to the three governors and their respective legislatures.

The meetings are held twice each year, although the committees meet more frequently. Chair of the Californias delegation is San Diego’s Jim Widdecke, a former Peace Corps volunteer. His counterpart for Baja California is Leonardo Bravo Quintana, a Tijuana lawyer and special assistant to the governor. Aurelio Martinez Balboa is a Tijuana lawyer and special assistant to the governor. The chair of the Education Committee, Ignacio Ortígara Becerra, announced that his committee had formed two subcommittees to work on educational and immigration issues. The commission will meet in February to bring results to the next commission of the Californias meeting.

The mission’s actions, as the three governors were to form a committee to review drug abuse education. Administrative support for the Californias delegation is provided by the Governor's Office of California-Mexico Affairs, which is also responsible for running the commission meetings held in California. The Office of California-Mexico Affairs, located in San Diego and affiliated with the San Diego State University, is directed by San Diego attorney Phil Brown. The office includes assistant to the director, Jesús A. Longoria and secretary, Lydia Beltran. For more information on the Commission of the Californias, contact: Office of California-Mexico Affairs, 110 West C Street, Suite 913, San Diego 92101 (619) 336-6169.

Workshop on Small-Scale Border Enterprises

ACCON International/AlTEC sponsored a two-day seminar workshop on "Small-Scale Enterprise Development: Increasing Family Income and Employment in the U.S.-Mexican Border Region." November 15-16, 1984, in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon. The objectives of the event were:

1. To promote better understanding of the role and importance of small-scale enterprises in the economic development of northern Mexico and the southwestern U.S. (2) To provide instruction on the state-of-the-art development of small enterprises (3) To explore opportunities for small-scale enterprise development programs in the Southwest.

ACCON International/AlTEC, a private, non-profit corporation, was established with federal and private funds to carry out several programs of credit and management assistance to small-scale enterprises in the Americas for the past 22 years. ACCON's affiliate in Mexico—Asociación Dinámica de Microempresas (ADMICRO)—administers loan capital from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to provide credit and managerial assistance to micro-enterprises in northern Mexico and the southwestern U.S. (2) To provide instruction on the state-of-the-art development of small enterprises (3) To explore opportunities for small-scale enterprise development programs in the Southwest.

The Mexican Forum, a quarterly publication of the Office for Mexican Studies of the University of Texas at Austin’s Institute of Latin American Studies, endeavors to bring to its readers feature articles on topics relevant to Mexican culture and society, and to open up opportunities for communication between Mexican and American scholars and their institutions in a number of countries. The editor is E.V. Niemeyer, Jr., assistant coordinator of the Office for Mexican Studies. "We have been very fortunate with the high-quality articles published," Niemeyer tells us. "They are analytical, perceptively written works that really inform those interested in the Mexican scene."

Subscriptions to the Forum are $5.00 per year for individuals and $10.00 per year for institutional libraries, business firms, and government offices. Beginning in 1985, these rates will increase to $7.50 and $12.50 respectively. A subscriber during any calendar year receives all numbers published during that year. Anyone interested in subscribing may do so by contacting the Office of Mexican Studies, Institute of Latin American Studies, SPH 1 322, University of Texas, Austin, TX 78712 (512) 471-5551.

E. V. Niemeyer, Jr.

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Additional information may be obtained from William Barrus or Fernando Quezada, ACCON International, 15-2 Mount Auburn, Cambridge, MA 02138 (517) 492-4593.

E. V. Niemeyer, Jr.