A Matter of Life and Death:
Changing Attitudes about AIDS

By Andrea Kaus

"The AIDS epidemic is devastating disenfranchised populations throughout the world—populations that are rejected even by their own health care providers," says Octavio J. Vallejo, a Fogarty Research Fellow in residence at the UCLA Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention (CHP&DP). For the millions of people suffering from AIDS, the fragile rampart between life and death is guarded by health care workers. Physicians, dentists, psychologists, nurses, social workers, and other primary care providers serve as the first resource and link to information about AIDS treatment for HIV-infected patients and as the principal source of education about AIDS prevention. They caution the public, treat the patients, counsel the patients' families, and console the dying. Health care workers can be the difference between agony and comfort, between acceptance and rejection, and between health and infection.

In the last year major breakthroughs in AIDS research and treatment have brought new hope to the medical community and to sufferers of the disease. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control recently reported a 13% percent decline in U.S. deaths from AIDS in the first six months of 1996 as compared to 1995. The preliminary success of new treatment strategies which combine protease inhibitors with other antiviral drugs, such as AZT and 3TC, in a medicinal "cocktail," has raised expectations for a cure for AIDS, and even a vaccine against HIV.

Optimism belongs only to the privileged few, however, because the medical profession's growing fortification and ammunition against the AIDS epidemic is neither geographically nor culturally uniform. Medical information, training, research, new medicines, and funds are not spread evenly across the globe or among ethnic groups. The good news about the 1996 decline of AIDS deaths in the United States is tempered by the data showing that the Latino and African-American populations showed a markedly smaller decrease in AIDS deaths than the Anglo population; these two minority groups continue their disproportionate representation among persons with HIV/AIDS.

(See HIV/AIDS, page 2)
HIV/AIDS (continued from page 1)

And while the United States may be making some headway against the disease, the pandemic rages in the major hotspots of Sub-Saharan Africa, South and Southeast Asia, and Latin America. UNAIDS, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, reports that "in mid-July 1996, an estimated 21.8 million adults and children were living with HIV/AIDS, of whom 20.4 million (94%) were in the developing world." The cost of the new antiretroviral cocktails poses them far beyond the grasp of the overwhelming majority of AIDS sufferers. Equally critical, in developing nations, caregivers and patients alike do not have sufficient information or training about HIV, its transmission, or its treatment to counter its spread or to provide adequate support to its victims.

AIDS in Mexico

The first cases of AIDS in Mexico were reported in 1983. By mid-1996, the Mexican Consejo Nacional de Prevención y Control del SIDA (CONASIDA) reported 26,977 accumulated cases. However, many cases are not reported or recognized, and CONASIDA estimates that there are 38,500 accumulated cases of AIDS, with 150,000 to 200,000 individuals currently living with HIV. Mexico now ranks tenth in the world and third in the Americas for AIDS cases, with a rate of 29.9 cases per 100,000 inhabitants.

Although the principal mode of transmission in Mexico remains male homosexual and bisexual activities, with the main concentration of reported cases in urban areas, UNAIDS notes alarming epidemiological trends that signal the appearance of the infection in women, children, poor and rural communities, and younger age groups, particularly those between 15 and 24 years old. No longer a disease hidden within populations not accepted by mainstream Mexican society, AIDS now affects all sectors of the country.

Obstacles to AIDS Treatment

UCAL's Vallejo has first-hand experience working with Mexican government health agencies. He observed that only five years ago Mexico was in the silent early phase of the AIDS epidemic, where health care workers did not understand or even know about the enormity of HIV transmission in the Mexican population, and government agencies and epidemiologists denied its seriousness. In many cases, the cause of death for AIDS patients was listed as cancer or pneumonia. Fear, based on a lack of knowledge about AIDS treatment, combined with the medical community's silence about HIV cases, facilitated the spread of the virus, hidden from public perception and unhindered by public information about at-risk behavior.

Although the Mexican medical community has advanced rapidly in its approach to AIDS in the 1990s, particularly in terms of social awareness about the disease, it is still not uncommon for health care workers to feel uncomfortable and unprepared when treating HIV/AIDS patients. Much of this is due to inadequate training, lack of information specific to the virus and the disease. Mexican health care workers report several barriers to gaining adequate access to training HIV-positive clients, including lack of current information; lack of opportunities for HIV/AIDS training with respect to diagnosis, epidemiological management, clinical and psychological support, and treatment; lack of educational and medical resources; lack of a research agenda with a mission; negative attitudes, both institutional and personal, of some health care providers toward HIV-infected clients; and negative attitudes of relatives toward the HIV-infected patient. Homophobia, coupled with the perception of AIDS as a gay disease, keeps HIV-infected or at-risk individuals from seeking help, especially minority, racial and indigenous minorities are not guaranteed in the clinical or work setting.

Throughout the world, the critical alliance between HIV-infected individuals and health care workers remains an uneasy one, full of misperceptions and unspoken fears. Charles E. Lewis, director of the UCLA CHP&D's program of medicine at the UCLA School of Public Health, has examined the responses of physicians in Southern California to HIV/AIDS patients, particularly with respect to minority populations. He points out that the only ethical reason for a physician to refrain from treatment would be for lack of training or competency to provide appropriate and timely care. Yet "the actual reasons that practitioners choose not to accept HIV-infected patients may be complex and include religious and deep-seated cultural values," values so ingrained that physicians and other health care workers may not be cognizant of the basis for their unease.

Health care workers are neither isolated from their societies' views toward AIDS: Guatemalan doctors are known to their own fears and concerns about working with patients infected with HIV. "Health care workers may be seen as representatives of unpopular lifestyle choices or as infectious minefields." Studies developed among health profession students, physicians, nurses, and dentists throughout the world indicate that some health care providers who do not possess accurate knowledge about HIV infection perceive a greater risk in treating HIV-infected patients. And health care workers uncomfortable with discussions about sex or drug use hesitate to raise sensitive questions essential for screening, diagnosis, or treatment.

AIDS Prevention through AIDS Understanding

Increasing coverage of AIDS-related issues by the Mexican media, combined with widespread media campaigns by CONASIDA, have allowed AIDS activists, health care workers, and educators to speak more openly about the disease and the factors leading to its transmission. Vallejo notes an almost palpable desire among Mexican health care workers for information about treating HIV/AIDS patients and a dearth of training programs to meet this need. When he joined the UCLA Center in 1994, he already had the rough outline of an HIV/AIDS training and education program proposal in hand. He hoped to form a three-way bridge between the research center, government agencies, and community-based organizations that would support and inform the efforts of the health care providers working at the local level. More than anything, Vallejo wanted to break down the cultural and social barriers that both isolate HIV-infected people from their surrounding communities and simultaneously facilitate the silent spread of the disease.

"HIV flourishes where an individual's capacity to learn and to respond is constrained."

—Octavio Vallejo

In 1995, at the request of the U.S. Agency for International Development in Mexico, the Mississippi Consortium for International Development asked Vallejo and Thomas Donohoe, director of the UCLA AIDS Education and Training Programs at CHP&D, to give an AIDS workshop in Pachuca, Hidalgo, as a follow-up to a previous international AIDS training course that had been offered in Jackson, Mississippi. Together with Randy Boyle from the AIDS Project Los Angeles (APLA), Vallejo and Donohoe developed a broad format for the workshop based on their experience working with Latin American professionals and an understanding of what economic and medical resources were available to Mexican health care workers, particularly those practitioners working in poor and/or rural communities. Donohoe points out that it was an excellent way for Vallejo not only to apply his work in the United States to the AIDS situation in his own country, but also to do so with additional academic and medical resources and with a bimodal group of researchers dedicated to a common goal: AIDS prevention through AIDS understanding.

The workshop was attended by 25 health care workers from different parts of Mexico, and the response from the participants was an urgent request to bring similar workshops to their own communities. Under Lewis' direction, CHP&D, the Pachuca event's format became a prototype for an HIV/AIDS training and education workshop curriculum in Mexico. Over the last two years, this unique program has been offered in workshop or retreat format in seven additional Mexican cities. One workshop, conducted in Morelia, Michoacan, was supported in part by a UC MEXUS 1995 Natural Science Grant. The workshops are intended to give Mexican health care providers updated information regarding the identification and treatment of HIV-infected individuals and strategies for encouraging community-level AIDS prevention programs. Emphasis is placed on treatments and therapies that are accessible and feasible for the Mexican medical community, particularly outside of the centralized resources in Mexico City. But the workshop programs are not limited to strictly medical and clinical concerns. They also address cultural issues, values so ingrained that they impact physicians and other health care workers, and are presented from a religious and deep-seated cultural perspective.

1 SIDA is the Spanish acronym for AIDS


social issues and responsibilities, such as the critical role of health care workers as educators in their own communities, and sensitive emotional issues such as homophobia, fear of contagion, and lack of compassion for HIV-infected patients.

The workshop trainers consist of a Spanish-speaking instructional team comprised of researchers and professionals from Mexico, UCLA, and Latin AIDS community-based organizations. In addition to Vallejo, Donohoe, and Lewis, the team at present includes Jesús Salazar Martínez, former Fogarty Fellow at the UCLA Department of Microbiology and Immunology and presently at the University of Alberta, Birmingham; Richard Beach, Immunocore, Miami Beach; Damian Geldkamp, Latino AIDS Pediatric Network, Los Angeles; Ruben Gamundi, APALA; Evelyn Najera, UCLA Fogarty International AIDS Training Program; Gerardo Martínez, Hospital de Infanta de México “Federico Gómez”; Victor Ortiz, CONASIDA; Randy Boyo, APALA; Cathy Compton, solo practitioners, and the Reverendo José Marco Gonzales, Bienesestar. The trainers often volunteer their “extra” time at each site for private counseling, public presentations, and interviews with the media.

Reaching the Public

Each workshop encourages media coverage to use events as a forum or springboard for discussion of public concerns and needs. For people who are afraid to consult with their physicians regarding AIDS symptoms or HIV prevention, fearful to bring up the subject with their families, and ashamed to confide in friends or colleagues, the media may be their only source of information about HIV/AIDS.

The result of this bicultural organization, training, and follow-up has been the development of a unique collaborative group from southern California and Mexico that now provides a strong scientific and professional base from which to address critical training needs in Mexico and to exchange information on recent developments in medical treatment and in building clinical care for AIDS patients. Donohoe points out that the tenor of the training program is not to present information that the United States has and Mexico does not; rather, it is to emphasize that Mexico has the unique opportunity to learn from the mistakes that the United States has made in confronting the epidemic.

The training programs are based on the belief that health care workers not only have a social responsibility to inform the public about AIDS transmission, they also have a moral obligation to promote tolerant attitudes toward people with the disease. Ideally, a health care worker can help a patient understand his or her illness, the risk factors for transmission, and the medical assistance and treatment, including self-care options, that are available to the patient. The argument is that if these with the disease are treated with respect as human beings and can seek help without fear of ridicule or ostracism, they in turn will respond with a greater effort to protect others.

CH&PDP training programs in Mexico and for outreach efforts to the Spanish-speaking population in Los Angeles County. Although each of TDV’s images conveys its own message, most of the artwork is combined with educational information, normally inserted (such as what condoms are called in different parts of the world) and some serious (such as the fundamental rights of individuals with HIV or AIDS), responding to basic questions about AIDS too often not asked by Latino youth. More than anything, however, the art conveys an unashamed compassion for those afflicted with AIDS and depicts the sorrow and love felt by their families, partners, and friends.

The CH&PDP recently collaborated with the Roger D. Arthur Art Coalition, a Los Angeles community organization of artists living with AIDS, to put together an art exhibit for the celebration of AIDS World Day held at AIDS Project Los Angeles (APLA) last October. With support from a UC MEXUS Fellowship for Visiting Mexican Artists, the Center invited Antonio Salazar, Vanuels and Ricardo Serrano from TDV to present a collection of the organization’s work at this event. The exhibit received additional support from the Pacific AIDS Education and Training Center, the UC San Diego Downtown Clinic, the UCLA AIDS Institute, ALIANZA, Los Angeles County Latino Caucus on HIV and AIDS, CONA- SIDAR, la Secretaria de Relaciones Exteriores, and SIDARTE.

Mexican Populations in California

Vallejo, Donohoe, and Lewis do not see a separation between UCLA researchers’ AIDS training efforts with local communities in Mexico and those in Southern California. Mexican living in the United States confront many of the same difficulties as those in Mexico with respect to social acceptance of HIV-infected individuals and AIDS prevention education. And the need for HIV/AIDS training and education is equally urgent. The spread of AIDS in Latino populations in Los Angeles County has increased in the 1990s.

Latinos accounted for nearly 40% of the total cases in the county in 1995, as opposed to approximately 18% in 1987. Yet, as in Mexico, the services available for AIDS treatment and counseling are not equally accessible for minority and rural populations in southern California.

“Your message of love and compassion is one of the most powerful ways we can respond to this epidemic.”

—President Bill Clinton

or in the nation as a whole. Lewis’ research on practicing physicians’ experience with AIDS patients indicates that the Latin American immigrant population, particularly in rural areas, tends to seek medical care from private doctors, contrary to the popular image of minority populations clogging public emergency and clinical facilities. And many rural physicians are not well equipped to treat AIDS patients, particularly with the advent of new protease inhibitors and the increasing complexity of AIDS treatment.

Equally important, Mexico and the United States share many populations, including migrant workers, bisexual households, and tourists, none of which is immune to AIDS.

Yet the two countries do not have an equivalent history of sharing medical professionals, health systems, or data. Lewis hopes that some of the lessons learned in the Mexican training and education programs can be extended to Latino communities in Southern California.

Donohoe and Vallejo continue to volunteer their time to local AIDS groups in Los Angeles. They work in the Latino community with women’s groups and with youth education programs, providing much of the same counseling and information as they do in Mexico.

“There are very few Spanish-speaking professionals with their level of training and competence working with Latino populations,” says Lewis. The city of West Hollywood recently honored Vallejo’s efforts, presenting him with the “Angels Amidst” award in recognition of his community work among Latinos living with AIDS. In a congratulatory letter, President Clinton wrote, “Your message of love and compassion is one of the most powerful ways we can respond to this epidemic.”

Vallejo and Donohoe demonstrate a remarkable aptness and passion for their work. Their enthusiasm is infectious, but it makes them vulnerable. “It is not what you know that makes people like you,” says Vallejo. “It is knowing that you care.” That attitude is perhaps the key to their understanding of the vulnerability of HIV/AIDS patients, the exposure to harassment and discrimination, and the fragile connection between the two. It is clear that to Vallejo and Donohoe, fear of AIDS can be as deadly as the disease itself.

Water and the Quality of Life at the California-Mexico Border

UC MEXUS is working with UC and Mexican natural and social scientists to develop a three-year binational research project focusing on critical water issues along the California segment of the U.S.-Mexico border. The thin political line that separates the United States and Mexico cuts across several critical water systems unequally shared by the two countries. The flow of water in the region is directly affected by policies based on the line on the map, but the flow of waste and contamination follows a topography inconceivable of the international border. Inequities and conflicts arise over the fair distribution of water for downstream users and the shared effects of contamination that might originate on either side of the border. In addition, formerly shared ecosystems are now differently affected by water distribution and quality and thus are increasingly divided into separate and limited units for long-term environmental protection.

The lower Colorado River and the upper Gulf of California comprise a holy disputed water distribution system. On the Mexican side, the Colorado River delta and the upper Gulf of California comprise a complex political, economic, and marine ecosystem that provides an important habitat for many migratory and endangered species, such as the imperiled vaquita and the totoaba. The region serves as a combined fish-and-saltwater nursery that has long supported the fishing industry along the coastal areas of Baja California and Sonora. The marshy cienagas of the delta, along with the Salton Sea on the U.S. side of the border, form an important haven for waterfowl on the Pacific Flyway, a north-south avian migratory route that runs from Alaska to Central America. In 1991, the Mexican government established a biosphere reserve in the Upper Gulf to protect these key ecological areas.

The complex of interconnected ecosystems nominally protected by the biosphere reserve designation is fed by and dependent upon water from the Colorado River. This critical water supply is diminishing in the face of increasing demands on both sides of the border for agriculture and industry. Colorado River water is claimed by many states, and by the time the water reaches Mexico, much of its volume has been diverted, diverted, and consumed, despite international treaties governing the supply to the downstream user. Native American tribes, Mexican indigenous groups, ejidal farmers, and fisherfolk have legal, economic, and cultural claims on Colorado River water, and their needs and rights are overtaxed by agribusiness, manufacturing, and urban consumption.

Groundwater aquifers in the region are also a point of contention. Wells pump the water out for agriculture and industry, and the effluents from both enterprises seep back into the underground supply. Contaminants in both the surface and groundwater supplies flow across the border and into the Gulf or the Salton Sea. The Salton Sea, long suffering from the build-up of pesticides from agricultural runoff, is becoming a toxic stew under the assault of increasing waste from the small rivers and drainages that feed into it. The huge numbers of dead sponges and other wildlife in the Salton Sea in 1996 and 1997 are an ominous indication of the contamination hazards that threaten the health of human populations as well.

The environmental situation is further complicated by rapid, uncontrolled industrialization along the California-Mexico border. This region has evolved into one of the fastest-growing new manufacturing centers in the world, which, in turn, has fueled rapid population growth in response to labor opportunities. Industrial and population growth occurs despite an undeveloped and improved urban infrastructure in terms of water, power, efficiencies, or drainage. The resulting complications affect Colorado water access, distribution, and quality, as well as diplomatic relations, on both sides of the border.

The management of such an international water system cannot be addressed by Mexico and the United States separately. The water knows no political boundary, and its continued availability and quality for border residents, wildlife, and environments requires cooperation between the two countries and effective management based on scientific information from many disciplines. Transboundary water management is a political conundrum with ecological, geological, economic, social, and cultural facets. All of these issues have implications for U.S.-Mexico relations, and mismanagement of water resources in the border region holds serious potential for irreversible environmental damage and human suffering.

The purpose of the UC MEXUS Project on Water and Quality of Life at the California-Mexico Border is to foster research, encourage international scientific collaboration, and bridge the gaps of communication among the academic, public, and political arenas in seeking solutions to the environmental and social dilemmas of water management along the California-Mexico border. The project is funded by a three-year grant from the Office of the President of the University of California. In association with the UC Centers for Water and Wildland Resources and the Environment and Protection Agency, UC MEXUS initially will bring together environmental and social scientists from UC campuses with those from Mexican institutions to organize a major binational conference. The conference will begin to combine EPA, UC, and other data sets from water research in the border region, with a specific emphasis on the lower Colorado River and upper Gulf of California.

In addition, the conference will bring together local and national policy makers and administrators of the region's water resources on both sides of the border; people affected by water quality and access issues, including Native American tribes of the Colorado River area and residents of the fast-growing new border corridor; industrial and agricultural producers; and environmentalists and activists concerned about water management, pesticide contamination, dumping of sewage and industrial waste, and wildlife habitats.

Researchers at UC campuses and Mexican institutions who are working on issues directly related to transboundary water resources and environment in the California-Mexico border region are invited to participate in the Project on Water and Quality of Life at the California-Mexico Border. Please write to UC MEXUS, University of California, Riverside, CA 92521, or e-mail ucMexus@ucr.edu to let us know about your specific interest. Provide your mailing address to receive information about conferences and special grant opportunities that will be made available under the program.

Historical Water Archive in Mexico

Scholars and scientists interested in water use and history in Mexico now have a unique research resource available to them. Mexico’s Archivo Histórico del Agua (AHA) was established in 1994 via a collaborative agreement between the Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios Superiores en Antropología Social (CIESAS) and the Comisión Nacional del Agua (CNA), and the archive presently has several collections ready for public use.

The CNA is the federal agency responsible for the management of water in Mexico, and the documentation of water use throughout the nation falls under this agency’s jurisdiction. Until now, this information was not available in a comprehensive or searchable data base. Many of the documents and collections were in poor condition and in danger of being lost forever. As a result of AHA’s formation, an abundance of information on past and present water use in Mexico is being retrieved, restored, and reorganized for access by the scientific community.

The establishment of this resource is largely due to the efforts of a research team headed by Dr. Luis Aboites Aguilera, the archive’s current director. In 1993, Aboites Aguilar was responsible for the historical aspects of the program “History and Anthropology of Water in Mexico (XXI and XXII Centuries),” formed in agreement between CIESAS and the Instituto Mexicano de Tecnología de Agua. One of the activities included in the program was, in fact, to develop an inventory of consistent and healthful water supplies to residents of the region, and the establishment of a continuing research focus at UC MEXUS to facilitate collaborative work on border issues.
of documentation sources for water use. Through visits to different regional archives, the team ascertained that many of the large and valuable collections of historical documents under CNA's jurisdiction were in dire conditions of preservation. Concerned about the loss of the materials, the CIESAS research team insisted that the best way to protect the data and to stimulate research about water resources would be to build up an archive that would provide substantive documentation for studies about this dimension of Mexican history.

The team’s recommendation was approved by CNA authorities, resulting in the establishment of the AHA in February of 1994. The AHA researchers began with the restoration and organization of archival documentation for the period 1850–1970 from the Secretaría de Fomento (SF), the Secretaría de Agricultura y Fomento (SAGF), the Secretaría de Recursos Hidráulicos (SRH), and the Secretaría de Agricultura y Recursos Hidráulicos (SARH), the federal water-related agencies that preceded CNA.

Ongoing development of the AHA has two principal goals: to save, catalogue, and make available the relevant records generated by the previous Mexican water agencies; and to foster the study of water use in Mexico via research, teaching, and dissemination. Le. Roscio Gumílo Ochoa, the archive’s chief curator, leads a staff comprised of personnel from the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), all with long-standing experience in the management of historical archives; the AHA also brings in history students from UNAM and students and personnel from the Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana and the Escuela Nacional de Antropología e Historia. A computer programmer has been contracted to design the data bases following the recommendations of Gumílo Ochoa.

Information in the AHA is based on three principal collection categories: corresponding to the following themes of water use:

• Surface water utilization, consisting of 68,000 files with records dating from 1850 to 1970 as well as copies of colonial documents. The majority of the material refers to water concessions, river inspections, company documents, and correspondence between water users and federal officials.

• Technical reports, including 12,600 files which contain documents from 1950 to 1980 referring to construction projects, reports on the construction and conservation of water works, inspections, geodesyological studies, and interinstitutional agreements.

• Río Grijalva Commission, based on 14,000 files from 1950 to 1980 referring to hydraulic works, Plan Chispala, rural and urban development projects, institutionalization, and the formation of settlements.

An additional data base is being developed for the archive: the Photographic Collection, consisting of 45,000 photographic images from 1950 to 1980. At the moment, 5,000 of these images are catalogued and available to the public.

All of the collections are open for research purposes. The archive contains additional manuscripts and typewritten documents, which often include appended graphics such as plans, photographs, and sketches. The archive provides abstracts of the 99,000 files so that researchers can search under various subjects in the data base, such as specific water courses, locations, user names, and municipalities.

The documentation of historical water use found in the AHA is particularly useful for water-related research on such themes as irrigation organizations, local and regional conflicts, history of hydraulic technology and engineering, natural disasters, railroads, hydroelectric works, mining, textile industries, damages resulting from military movements during the Revolution of 1910, municipal governments, agrarian reform, aspects of political centralization, and construction and projects related to waterworks. The AHA Library also includes 3,500 titles on the history of water use in Mexico.

AHA issues a quarterly scholarly publication, Boletín del Archivo Histórico del Agua, which provides articles on historical water use, water projects, water events (e.g., floods and earthquakes) in Mexico, and available archival documents for researchers. The archive offers assistance for locating information in its data bases, the reading-room files, the photographic collection, or the print list. Researchers can visit or contact the archive in Mexico City at: Archivo Histórico del Agua (AHA), Balderas 94, Centro Histórico, 64000 Mexico, D.F.; telephone (5) 521-7652. The facility is open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. during the week work.

Women, War & Resistance

Memory says: Want to do it right? Don’t count on me. I’m a canal in Europe where bodies are floating I’m a mass grave I’m the life that returns I’m a corpse dredged from a canal in Berlin a river in Mississippi I’m a woman standing with other women dressed in black on the streets of Haifa. Tel Aviv; Jerusalem there is spit on my sleeve there are phonelines in the night I am a woman standing in line for gas masks . . .

Adrienne Rich, Eastern War Time

The activities of warfare, always brutal, now increasingly target noncombatants as part of deliberate or contingent military strategies. Ninety-five percent of today’s casualties are civilians, often women and children. While the reasons for conflict vary in dozens of hotspots around the world, violence against women is an appalling constant of border wars, ethnic cleansing, religious hatred and other major conflicts. Still, it is rarely acknowledged, accorded to Margarethe Waller, chair of the women’s studies department at UC Riverside and director of the Center for Women in Coalition.

The role of women in resistance, in organizations, and organizations to counter and defy the ravages of military actions is even less recognized. Such recognition was the objective of the international conference “Frontline Feminisms: Women, War and Resistance,” held at UCR January 16–18, 1997. Piya Chattarjee, associate director of the Center for Women in Coalition and assistant professor of Women’s Studies and anthropology at UCR, notes that the conference also provided an opportunity to interrogate the divide between academic and activist feminist issues in an international context. Although researchers and scholars may comment on—even speak for—feminist activists and their causes, there is a certain safe distance from within academia, says Chattarjee. Part of the goal of the conference was to create an environment where the activists—the women on the front lines—assumed a role as teachers rather than subjects of discourse.

Chattarjee and Waller organized the event through the Center for Women in Coalition, with support from the UCR Center for Ideas and Society; the UCR Center for Social and Behavioral Sciences Research; the UCR College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences; UC MEXUS; UC Office of the President; UCR Campus Relations; the Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation; the American Friends Service Committee; and the Global Fund for Women. Over 140 participants spoke at the conference, each offering personal perspectives—from local to global—an feminist initiatives from China, India, Israel, Croatia, Iran, Sudan, France, Palestine, Lebanon, Ireland, Hungary, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Macedonia, Cyprus, Mexico, Korea, Philippines, South Africa, Palestine, Israel, Newse Asia (Western Shoshone Nation), South Korea, Tibet, Tunisia, and the United States. The experiences of the speakers and participants highlighted the extent and extraordinary valor of women’s movements in the face of war and civil strife, from indigenous women in Chiapas standing up to government soldiers to women forming coalitions to promote peace in former Yugoslavia.

Angela Davis, the conference plenary speaker and presidential chair of African-American and feminist studies at UC Santa Cruz, voiced her concerns about U.S. complacency during her talk entitled “The Military/Prison Industrial Complex: Feminist Strategies for Resistance.” Speaking to an audience of more than 700 people, Davis observed that many economic interests formerly invested in the military industrial complex now are focused on the prison industry, leading to an overwhelming philosophy of incarceration as a core for social problems. Such sentiments not only drain the resources that are needed to combat “real problems” such as poverty, said Davis, it is also an assault on the victims of these problems, particularly women. Davis noted that protest against injustices becomes effective when it becomes a global movement. She exhorted U.S. feminists not to succumb to defeatism: “How dare we give up and feel hopeless when women around the world are suffering so in their resistance to threats to their society, land, and selves?”

The enthusiastic response from the participants following the conference has been overwhelming, says Waller, who feels that this event carried the feminist agenda generated by the U.N. Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995 one step further. Many women who have been working on the front lines of danger throughout the world met each other for the first time at the Frontline Feminisms conference. Chattarjee noted that “sparks flew” at the conference, as expected from the eclectic combination of academics and
activities in a highly poli-
ticized environment, and the
ewer of the two migrants
mixture inspired the par-
ticipants. Chatterjee and
Waller believe that the
strength from the meet-
ing will lead to new
cross-national, cross-border feminist
alliances, which they
hope will edge feminist
politics into the main-
stream. "A step was
taken toward creating a
ew power base not
based on dominance
but on more sustainable
kinds of development
and social recogniza-
tion," said Waller. In
addition, the conference
gave U.S. women, who

Announcements

Herrera-Sobek Appointed to Leal Chair

Maria Herrera-Sobek, an acclaimed
scholar of Chicano literature and culture
whose groundbreaking research has
significantly advanced understanding of
Mexican-American oral traditions, has
been named the first Luis Leal Professor
of Chicano Studies at UC Santa Bar-
bara. The unique endowed chair was
established in 1995 in honor of UCSB
professor Luis Leal, widely known as
the dean of Mexican short-fiction criti-
cism and a pioneer in the field of Chi-
cano literature. Since January 1995, Leal
has temporarily held the
chair created in his name, and he was
delighted with Herrera-Sobek’s ap-
pointment: "Her many publications
have enriched our understanding of
popular literature in both the United States
and Mexico. Her latest book, Northward
Bound, reflects her extensive knowledge of
Chicano literature and culture, espe-
cially the presence of the Mexican im-
migrant in ballad and song."

Herrera-Sobek is a graduate of UC Los
Angeles, where she studied with folklor-
ist Stanley Rabin. Since earning her
degree in 1975, she has taught at UC
Irvine as professor of Spanish and Portu-
guese. She assumed her new post on
January 1. "This is a historic day in Chi-
cano Studies. We have landed one of the
most distinguished and productive
scholars in the field, a researcher skilled
in literary analysis, archival work,
ethno-feminist politics, and folklore," said
Francisco Lemus, chair of the
Chicano Studies Department and profes-
sor of Spanish and Portuguese.

The only position of its kind in the na-
tion, the Luis Leal Endowed Chair was
founded with a $300,000 endowment of
contributions from donors, corporations,
and the Mexican government. Under
Herrera-Sobek’s direction, income from
the endowment will provide support for
research in the area of Chicano studies.

Poot-Herrera Named Woman of the Year

Sara Poot-Herrera, associate professor of
Spanish and Portuguese at UC Santa
Barbara, has been named the 1997 Na-
tional Hispanic Women’s Conference
Woman of the Year. Awarded by the
Mexican American Opportunity Foun-
dation, the distinction recognizes
"outstanding women who are leaders in
their respective fields." Poot-Herrera is
a leading authority on the celebrated
17th-century Mexican poet Sor Juana
Inés de la Cruz and the author of the
recent book Sor Juana y Su Mundo:
Una Mirada Actual (Mexico: Univer-
sidad del Colegio de Mexico, 1994).

Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz was...
Conference on Global Migration Scheduled for October 1997

The phenomenon of Mexican immigration to the United States is not unique; every continent of the world is experiencing large-scale human dislocation. Social upheaval, political transformation, and economic restructuring have historically driven migration from one region to another. However, the continuing recognition of agriculture and manufacturing taking place worldwide has begun to relocate workers to new production centers and communities, large and small.

As the power of labor unions to organize and negotiate the wages and working conditions of new workers declines, the demand for corporate profits grows, and the globalisation of capital creates truly international corporations with neither allegiance nor obligation to any particular national corporate culture, manipulation of necessary workers for low-skill jobs will increase, not only at the U.S.-Mexico border region, but across borders all over the world. Trade agreements are facilitating the flow of goods and capital across borders, but little is being done to address in similar fashion the associated phenomenon of labor migration.

What are the implications for the societies that send and receive international workers? Who drives the economic engine that generates labor migration, and who profits from such workers? What are society’s obligations for provision of basic services, such as housing and utilities, sanitation and health protection, justice and education? What about wages and labor standards and occupational safety rules? Who is responsible for ensuring the basic human rights of transnational migrant workers? How can such populations be managed so as to protect their basic human rights and dignity while respecting the immigration and labor laws of the countries in which they seek work?

These are some of the most complex and hotly debated issues of the time. The United States and Mexico are only two of the countries engaged in the binational exchange of jobs for labor. Scholars are investigating this phenomenon and its myriad outcomes around the world, and there is much to be learned from evaluating the experiences of other nations, or groups of nations, in managing transnational labor forces.

UC MEXUS, in collaboration with the UCR International Economic Conflict and Cooperation Group, is organizing the conference “Mexico and the United States in the Context of Global Migration” to address the questions and issues surrounding the movement of workers across international borders and to examine the salience of international phenomena to the specific case of integrated U.S.-Mexican populations and economies. The conference will be held October 24 and 25, 1997, at the Mission Inn in Riverside, California, and will bring together a distinguished group of international scholars to discuss the particular case of Mexico and the United States in the broader context of international labor trends. The conference will be directed towards members of the public, media, and corporate communities, as well as to students and researchers of many disciplines.

The Honorable Jesse Silva Herzog, Ambassador of Mexico to the United States, is the keynote speaker. Program sessions include: global economy and migration; labor and the globalized economy; the United States and Mexico; labor and policy implications and recommendations. A forum for non-academic participants, such as politicians and labor organizers, will be provided in both invited and open commentary.

The conference is sponsored by UC MEXUS, the UCR International Economic Conflict and Cooperation Group, the Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation, and the UCR Center for Ideas and Society. The painting by noted artist Jacob Lawrence displayed in conference publicity is entitled “From Every Southern Town Migrants Left by the Hundreds to Travel North” (The Migration Series, Panel No. 3, 1940-1941) and expresses the human realities of labor migration in ways that have meaning for all people. It is the courtesy of the artist, Francesca Sesler Gallery, Seattle, WA, and with the generous assistance of the Phillips Collection, Washington, D.C.

For more information about the conference, contact: UC MEXUS, 3324 Olmsted Hall, University of California, Riverside, CA 92521; Tel: (909) 787-3519

Small Grants

The Small Grants Competition is held three times a year to support special, one-time, short-term needs of researchers undertaking projects related to UC MEXUS goals. Listed below are the principal investigators, departments, home campuses, primary collaborators, and project titles of the recipients from the Fall 1996 and the Winter 1997 competitions.


Richard Whitaker—Botany and Plant Science, Riverside (Carlos de la Cruz, Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico). Molecular Systematics of the Genus Theobroma.
Reports Received

Reports of activities supported by UC MEXUS convey the broad scope of interdisciplinary and collaborative research undertaken by UC and Mexican researchers. Recently concluded proj- ects by UC investigators and their collaborators are listed below. “SCR-43” refers to California Senate Concurrent Resolution 43, which inspired funding made available by the Office of the President of the University through the UC Committee on Latin/Latino Research for work in the areas of Chicanx/Chicanos Studies. For addi- tional information about the listed projects, please contact the principal investigators directly. Campus addresses are listed on the last page.

Rebecca Cramer—Plant Pathology, Riverside (J. Ote Becker, Riverside; Gerardo Avila Garcia, Oscar Durada Ramirez, Universidad Autonoma del Estado de Morelos). Nematodes as Biological Control Agents in Traditional Agroecosystems of the Trans-Mexican Volcanic Belt. Two working collections of nematodes for UCR and UAEM were gathered from select regions of the Trans-Mexican Volcanic Belt to assess the biodiversity of microorganisms soils. The species represent fourteen families and include at least twenty previously unknown and unnamed species of Rhododr bellida.


The Arts

Mario Barrera—Ethnic Studies, Berkeley. SCR-43. The Party Line. Production of a short film about a Chicano who continues to maintain his personal and ethnic identity.


Roberto Horvitz—Spanish and Portuguese, Riverside. Visiting Mexican Artist: Hugo Hiriart. Support to bring Hiriart, a writer and theater director, and professor, to the Riverside campus for a series of lectures, discussions, and a conference for faculty and graduate stu- dents on “The Baroque in Playwriting.”

Norma Khaleo-Chicano/Latino Research Center, Santa Cruz. Visiting Mexican Artist: Joaquin Armanda. Chaco and the Coalition to invite the Mexican novelist to teach a course at UCSC in contemporary Spanish American prose and to conduct a writing workshop.

Richard P. Moore—Center for Re- search on the Environment, and the Art of San Diego. George Lewis, San Diego. David Wesel, Berkeley; Roberto Morales Maman, Universidad de Guadalajara; Vijay Lyer, Berkeley; Jararabal Kapacinska, San Diego). Resilience and Exhange Program (New Music Technology). Support for research stays and presentations in San Diego, Berkeley, and Guadalajara to learn about various approaches to digital technology at UCSD and UCB and to learn about approaches to electroacous- tic research at the Universidad de Guadalajara.


Collaboration to translate Morton's play Rancho Hollywood from English to Spanish and to stage it with a professional cast in Mexico City. The play, directed by Weinstein, appeared at Teatro Galaxia Mundi in Mexico City from March 28, 1996 to June 2, 1996.


Environment

Wolfgang Berger—Sciences Institution of Oceanography, San Diego (France Biondi, San Diego; Nora Martinez de Rangel de Buells). Centre of Investiga- tion and Educational Superiorie (Monica Encarnada, B.C.). Drought History of Baja California Recon- structed from Tree Rings. Dendrochronological project in southern and Baja California to deter- mine the climate response of an endemic species in southern California. The analysis was based on tree-ring records from two sites in Baja California and developed hypotheses on the physical linkages between the Cali- fornia current and precipitation anomaly land over the American southwest.

Arturo Gómez-Pompa—Botany and Plant Sciences, Riverside (Marco Larrizo, University of California). An Evaluation of the Biodiversity of the Yucatán Region in Quintana Roo. An initial survey of the University’s selected group of plants, animals, and microorganisms of the six major ecosys- tems known to exist in El Eden eco- logical reserve in Quintana Roo.


Henry M. Page—Marine Science Insti- tute, Santa Barbara (Robert Petty, Santa Barbara; Salvador Galindo-Bec. Hugo Bustos-Serrano, Martin Hernández-Ayon, Universidad Autonoma de Baja California). Altera- tion of a Prehistoric Planet in the Ca- rido River Estuary: Impact on Early Development of the Commercially Im- portant Blue shrimp. Penaeus stylirostris. A binaional project to determine the distribution, abundance, and habitat requirements of postlarval and juvenile stages of blue shrimp, quantify available habitat, provide new information on the early development of the species, and provides a basis for future collaborative efforts in the Colorado River Estuary.

Richard Whittaker—Botany and Plant Sciences, Riverside (Arturo Gómez- Pompa, Riverside; Marlene de la Cruz, Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico). Cataloging Natural Dis- tinct of Wild Cacti in Southern Mex- ico. A collaborative project with the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico to characterize the genetic di- versity of rare wild cincus (Theochroma cumpa c. cumpa) populations in southern Mexico and to determine the rela- tionships of the wild populations to rare cacti.

Labor

Marilane P. Brown—Labor Occupa- tional Safety and Health Program, Los Angeles. (Dwight Cole, Diane Perry, Daryl Holter, Rosa Elena Garcia, Los Angeles; Leonel Céllido, David Sánchez, Ronalda Avila, Ricardo Domínguez, Los Angeles; Salvador M. Torres, Luis Pérez Pantoya, José Pilar Escalante Hernández, Instituto Na- cional de los Trabajadores, Mexico City; George Villégas, Universidad Autonoma Metropolitana Xochilimilco). SCR-43. Comparative Analyze of U.S.—Mexico Worker Health and Safety Regulations. A library compilation and comparative analysis of key occupational health and safety regulations in Mexico and the United States as groundwork for a more exten- sive investigation of how such regula- tions are implemented and enforced in the workplace.


Brenda Eskenazi—School of Public Health, Berkeley (Sylvia Guendelman, Benchmark, El Colegio de Sonora; S. Katharine Hammond, University of Massachusetts Medical Center). A Feasibility Study to Investigate Reproductive Outcomes of Female Migrant Workers. Preliminary analysis of reproductive health of female migrant workers in Tijuana and proposal development for a bina- tional epidemiological investigation.

Health

Carole H. Browner—Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences, Los Angeles (Barbara Cranfill, Jeffrey McNairy, Los Angeles) SCF-43: Use of Amoebic cysts by Mexican and Mexican-Americans. The project examined decisions about the use of oral diagnostic testing by Mexican immigrant and Mexican-American women at risk for having a child with a disability. It considers the consequences of their decisions for adaptation to the pregnancy and subsequent birth.

Kathryn G. Dewy—Nutrition, Davis (Irene Mashele-Radurai, National Institute of Pediatric, Rafael Perez-Escamilla, University of Connecticut), Determinants of Breastfeeding in Mexico Based on a Nationally Representative Survey. Analysis and identification of risk factors for poor breastfeeding success in Mexico to provide information for health policy.

Carrell Kesten—Institute for Health and Aging, San Francisco (Diana Torres, San Francisco) SCF-43: The Effect of Social Support on the Health of Elderly's Social Support System. The research examined the effect of Hispanics' social networks on their access to informal and formal services and the extent of elderly Hispanics' access to informal support services on their use of formal support services.

Jonathan Ericson—Social Ecology, Irvine (Dean Baker, Vincent Merrill, Elizabeth J. Cordova, Irvine; Vincente Sánchez, Roberto Ham-Chamle, El Colegio de la Frontera, Santa Cruz). Environmental Lead Exposure of Young Children in Tijuana, B.C., Mexico. Evaluated by Geographic Information System Technology. Collaborative research based on soil lead surveys in Tijuana, Baja California, analyzed using a GIS approach to understand the relationships of the distribution of soil lead in the environment to exposure in children.


Nora Krupa—Chicano/Latino Research Center, Santa Cruz (Pedro Castillo, Santa Cruz). Bridging Borders: Creating Centuries: U.S.-Mexico Relations after NAFTA. Support for a two-day biannual research conference.

Natural Sciences and Engineering

Maria T. Garcia—History, Santa Barbara (Mari Valdes, Institute Politecnico Nacional, Molecular and Structural Studies of Pinus, M. A. Atrachienobostra). A detailed study of filamentous bacteria isolated from nodules of Cassava (ironwoods), combined with RNA analysis to detect the genetic relatedness of Mexican isolates.


Arnold S. Hillman—Aquaculture and Fisheries Program, Davis (Gary P. Moerberg, Paul Piedrahita, Serge Dorendor, Davis; Carlos Caceres, Miguel Ogeda, Universidad Autonoma de Baja California Sur). Development of an Aquaculture Exchange Program. Researcher exchange for the development of a cooperative program in shellfish production and sanitation between the Universidad Autonoma de Baja California Sur in La Paz and UCD and an aquaculture extension program in Baja California.

Glenn Wade—Electrical Engineering, Santa Barbara (Ferando Mendoza, Centro de Investigaciones en Optica, A.C.; A. C. Meyyapram, Steve Isakson, Santa Barbara; Luis Roberto Sahagun Ortiz, Rayna Durate, and Morales Cywinski, Universidad de Guanajuato). Holographic Acoustic Microscopy: Initiation of a new research effort at the Centro de Investigaciones en Optica in acoustical holography, including research on the synthesis of a new microscope that will utilize a multiplicity of imaging transducers for rapidly obtaining holographic projections of the microscopic object from different directions.


Funding and Fellowship Opportunities

UC/CONACYT Postdoctoral Research Opportunities for Mexican Scholars

CONACYT, the Mexican Council on Science and Technology, has announced two postdoctoral opportunities particular to the University of California.

The first is a special competition for postdoctoral fellowships to be undertaken by Mexican scholars at University of California departments and research centers. Initiated as part of its initiative for support of recent recipients of doctoral degrees at Mexican institutions, CONACYT's UC program will provide support for one-year periods of research (with the possibility of renewal for an additional year), beginning as early as October 1997. The support includes a stipend and medical insurance for the period of award, as well as one-way placement opportunities in Mexican institutions of higher education and

Neusa Hidalgo-Moroy W—Geography, San Diego. Organic Agriculture and Indian Communities in Chiapas, Mexico. An analysis of the role of ethnicity in two indigenous peasant organizations in Ocozuc and Chiapas that are producing organic coffee using traditional agricultural practices and the effect that their participation in the international market is having on their cultures and communities.

Andrew Wood—History, Davis. The Making of El Movimiento Inquilinario: Tenants Protest and the State in Post-revolutionary Mexico, 1917-1927. The study traces the rise and fall of a series of tenant protests in Mexico during the 1920s and discusses how the dynamics of popular organization for housing reform affected government response and policy.

UC MEXUS NEWS Summer 1997

16
the fellow's incorporation into the academic community of the campus. A second opportunity is for applicants to CONACYT's general call for postdoctoral fellowships who may request residency at the UC MEXUS University-wide Headquarters at the Riverside campus. In addition, programs provided by CONACYT, UC MEXUS will serve as the host center and will provide to each of the selected fellows a $2,500 grant to support research and research-related travel expenses, office space, administrative support, and access to libraries and other research resources. The UC MEXUS/CONACYT fellows will participate in the development of specific research initiatives; for 1997 the areas of interest include Mexican-origin families and communities in the United States, urbanization and industrialization in the U.S.-Mexico border region, environmental conservation and protection, natural resource management, Mexican-origin families and communities in the United States, and migration studies. Selected residents will undertake one-year periods of research in topics currently of special interest in the UC MEXUS agenda and participate in a research development program intended to build UC MEXUS capacity in the priority areas. Renewals of up to one additional year are possible. Residents include a salary research appointment at a level appropriate to the selected individual's qualifications (from $2,500 to $3,000 per month); health benefits; office space, equipment and staff support at the UC MEXUS University-wide Headquarters at the Riverside campus; access to library and computerized research resources; and a $2,000 supply and research travel allowance. The residency may begin at any time during the academic year commencing October 1, 1997. Individuals who have recently been awarded the Ph.D. in any University of California graduate program may apply. The Ph.D. must be earned within the last five years of the date the residency commences. Applications for postdoctoral appointments to be undertaken during the 1997-98 academic year must be received by UC MEXUS no later than August 31, 1997. For additional information contact Kathleen Vincent Assistant Director, UCB University-wide University-wide Headquarters, University of California, Riverside, CA 92521; (909) 787-8359; e-mail: k Vincent@ucr.edu.

Fellowship Opportunity at Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies The Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies at UC San Diego is developing a two-year interdisciplinary community, economic, and political project will support as many as six half-year residential fellowships for project-related research and writing beginning September 1997. Fellowships will be divided equally between two topic areas: 1) population growth, immigration, and the border environment; and 2) governance, sustainable development, and public policy in the U.S.-Mexico border region. Interested social science researchers from the United States, Mexico, and other countries are encouraged to contact the Center for additional information. Inquiries should be addressed to: C.R. Helfer, Environmental Project Coordinator, Center for U.S.- Mexican Studies, University of California, San Diego, 6510, 9500 Gilman Dr., La Jolla, CA 92093-0116; Tel: (619) 534-4503; fax: (619) 534-5447; e-mail: chelfe@ucsd.edu.

Fullbright Binational Business Grants The Fullbright Commission welcomes applications for the 1998-99 academic year from well-qualified candidates for graduate study or research in binational business in Mexico. Up to 10 grants in the field of business management will be offered to graduating seniors, MBA students, or graduate students interested in an international business career. Fellows will follow a full-year course of study at a Mexican university and will be assigned an internship at a company in Mexico. Candidates must be U.S. citizens at the time of application and applicants who are currently living in Mexico are discouraged. The deadline for applications is October 23, 1997. Specific eligibility requirements and information on benefits are contained in the brochure Fulbright and Related Grants for Graduate Study and Research Abroad, 1996-1997, which may be obtained from campus Fulbright Program Advisors. For further information contact: U.S. Student Programmes Division, Institute of International Education, 809 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017-3509. Tel: (212) 983-3200; website: http://www.nie.org/fulbright.

1998-99 Fulbright Awards for U.S. Faculty and Professionals Opportunities for lecturing or advanced research in over 135 countries are available to college and university faculty and professional and advanced graduate students for U.S. citizenship and the Ph.D. or comparable professional qualifications required. For lecturing awards, university or college teaching experience is expected. Foreign language skills are needed for some countries, but most lecturing assignments are in English. The deadline for lecturing or research grants for 1998-99 is August 1, 1997. Other deadlines are in place for specific programs: distinguished Fulbright chairs in Western Europe and Canada (May 1) and Fulbright seminars for international education and academic administrators (November 1). For further information contact: USA Fulbright Senior Scholar Program, Council for International Exchange of Scholars, 8007 Tilden Street, NW, Suite 5B, Box CNEWS.

Meetings Global Cooperation The Asociación Mexicana de Estudios Internacionales and the Latin American Studies Association are convening a conference on the theme Global Cooperation: The End of the Cold War in 1996-1997, which may be obtained from campus Fulbright Program Advisors. For further information contact: U.S. Student Programmes Division, Institute of International Education, 809 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017-3509. Tel: (212) 983-3200; website: http://www.nie.org/fulbright.

Children's Health The University of Texas System's Texas-Mexico Coordination Office will convene a U.S.-Mexico Border Binational Conference on children's health on October 22-24, 1997, at the Camino Real Hotel, El Paso, TX. The theme of the conference is Salud en Prometeras . . . Health Without Boundaries: The Effects of Poverty on Children's Health. The conference goal is to improve research, training, and knowledge of children's health needs along the border and to determine how these needs can best be met. Preliminary registration before September 22 is $95; $115 after this date. Stipends are available for further information contact: Texas-Mexico Border Health Coordination Office, The University of Texas at Pan American, 1201 West University Drive, Edinburg, TX 78539-2599; Tel: (210) 381-3607.

Children's Health

The University of Texas System's Texas-Mexico Coordination Office will convene a U.S.-Mexico Border Binational Conference on children's health on October 22-24, 1997, at the Camino Real Hotel, El Paso, TX. The theme of the conference is Salud en Prometeras . . . Health Without Boundaries: The Effects of Poverty on Children's Health. The conference goal is to improve research, training, and knowledge of children's health needs along the border and to determine how these needs can best be met. Preliminary registration before September 22 is $95; $115 after this date. Stipends are available for further information contact: Texas-Mexico Border Health Coordination Office, The University of Texas at Pan American, 1201 West University Drive, Edinburg, TX 78539-2599; Tel: (210) 381-3607.
Hispanics: Cultural Locations

The University of San Francisco will be hosting an interdisciplinary and international conference entitled "Hispanics: Cultural Locations" on October 10-12, 1997. The conference will focus on the cultural productions and social locations of Hispanics in the western hemisphere. Notices of Hispanicity will be analyzed and discussed as they emerge from particular cultural locations. The conference seeks to promote interaction among Hispanic/Latinos; highlight their role as both subjects and objects of socio-economic, political, and cultural analysis; acknowledge and celebrate the existence of a Hispanic scholarly community; review the present status of Hispanic research; and thus begin discussing new horizons as the new millennium approaches. Pregistration before July 15, 1997, is $75 for faculty/staff-students and $45 for students. Full registration after this date is $100 and $65 respectively. For additional information contact: Hispanics Conference, University of San Francisco, 2130 Fulton Street, San Francisco, CA 94117-1080; Tel: (415) 422-2540; Fax: (415) 422-2517; e-mail: HISPANIC @USFS.CEDU; Web site: sfsno.edu/events/hispanics_and_US.

II Congreso Internacional Etnobotánica ¿97

The Changing Face of Rural America

The fourth conference on the Changing Face of Rural America will be held September 11-13, 1997 at the University of Delaware campus in Newark. The conference will explore the prospects for and impacts of recent immigrants in the rural towns to which they are moving, with a specific emphasis on Mexican immigrants in the mid-Atlantic and southeastern states. The conference has four distinct parts: overviews of U.S., mid-Atlantic and southeastern immigration patterns, federal immigrant integration policies and their implications for rural areas; changes in particular cities and towns in the mid-Atlantic and southeastern states as they accommodate immigrants, and the implications of the new immigration laws for federal and state policies. In addition to the Delaware conference, the Changing Face of Rural America seminar series will release the book Poverty Amid Prosperity: Immigration and the Changing Face of Rural California (Urban Institute Press, Washington, D.C.) on October 9, 1997 at a conference to be held in the Sacramento area. The book is based on 1995 and 1996 Changing Face seminars, and the meeting will re-examine conditions in the communities researched in the book to see how they are faring in light of continued immigration, economic expansion, and welfare and immigration reforms. For additional information regarding participation, registration deadlines and costs, and additional seminars or events, contact: Philip Martin, Agricultural Economics, University of California, Davis, CA 95616; Tel: (510) 752-1350; Fax: (510) 752-5514; e-mail: marin@agrar.ucdavis.edu or consult the Rural Migration News Home page at: http://migration.ucdavis.edu/ rmn/ucfs.htm.

UC MEXUS NEWS Summer 1997

Consejo Nacional de Prevención yControl del SIDA (CONASIDA)

http://www.sida.gob.mx/comida/index.html

The home page of the Mexican government agency dedicated to providing public information, education, and statistics about HIV/AIDS in Mexico.

SIDA en Mexico y en el Mundo

A comprehensive bilingual site in Mexican and English on HIV/AIDS, educational guides, breaking news, "virtual consulting" listings of events, and access to relevant publications. This important resource connects the links to the majority of the AIDS-oriented web pages in Mexico as well as providing links to major international AIDS organizations. It also provides a listing of state-level government services, non-governmental organizations, and religious organizations related to HIV/AIDS education, prevention, or support. The addresses for the offices of Mexico's Commission of Human Rights are included. An additional link to Lenta S, an on-line supplement of the Mexican newspaper El Huracan, contains articles about HIV/AIDS in relation to culture and daily life in Mexico, including sections on human rights and support groups, condoms, women and AIDS, and medical information.

AIDS Project Los Angeles (APLA)
http://www.apla.org/apla/

APLA is a non-governmental, community-based organization which is a direct provider of, and a resource for, HIV/AIDS services and information and an advocate at all levels of government for people living with AIDS. The web page includes available services and support groups, special events, news, various informational publications, and links to other sites. The site is also searchable for information on HIV/AIDS and Latinos.

In the midst of the electronic revolution, more and more information is available—sometimes exclusively—so on the internet. In keeping with the theme of the cover article, this issue's Net Notes offers a sampling of web sites with information on HIV/AIDS in Mexico and in Latin American populations.

Net Notes

HIVaSite
http://hivasite.ucsf.edu/index.html

A comprehensive bilingual site in Mexican and English on HIV/AIDS, educational guides, breaking news, "virtual consulting" listings of events, and access to relevant publications. This important resource connects the links to the majority of the AIDS-oriented web pages in Mexico as well as providing links to major international AIDS organizations. It also provides a listing of state-level government services, non-governmental organizations, and religious organizations related to HIV/AIDS education, prevention, or support. The addresses for the offices of Mexico's Commission of Human Rights are included. An additional link to Lenta S, an on-line supplement of the Mexican newspaper El Huracan, contains articles about HIV/AIDS in relation to culture and daily life in Mexico, including sections on human rights and support groups, condoms, women and AIDS, and medical information.

Center for AIDS Prevention Studies (CAPS)
http://www.caps.ucsf.edu/capsweb/

A comprehensive UC San Francisco site committed to maintaining a focus on the prevention of HIV disease, using the expertise of multiple disciplines, and an applied and community-based perspective within a university setting. Numerous articles, publications, and information related to Latinos or Hispanics and HIV/AIDS can be found by searching under key words.

Centers for Disease Control AIDS Clearing House
http://www.cdc.gov

This CDC service is designed to facilitate the sharing of HIV/AIDS and STD resources and information about education and prevention, published materials, and research findings, as well as news about related trends. The site provides information on "Español" at http://www.cdc.gov/spanish.html and a section on links to other Spanish language sites on HIV/AIDS. It also features a section on "Información on HIV/AIDS" which provides Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report articles related to HIV/AIDS and fact sheets, including one on HIV/AIDS among African Americans and Hispanics in the United States.

HIV/AIDS Prevention
http://www.cdc.gov/nchstp/hiv_aids/index.htm

As part of the National Center for HIV, STD, and TB Prevention, this site includes basic statistics, conference, funding opportunities, HIV/AIDS information, press releases and campaigns, and publications. The site is searchable for information related to HIV/AIDS and Latino or Hispanic populations.

UNAIDS
http://www.unaids.org


Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)
http://www.paho.org/english/aids/ aidstid.html

Information from PAHO on the global epidemic, quarterly reports on AIDS, surveillance in the Americas, publications, training programs, events, addresses of national AIDS/STD programs in the Americas, and internet links.

La RED de Informacion del SIDA (LA RED)
http://www.cixdone.org/network/kaidar/index.htm

LA RED is a Spanish program of the AIDS Treatment Data Network. It offers information regarding approved, experimental, and alternative treatments for HIV/AIDS along with individualized advice for people who need access to these treatments. The site includes publications and a Spanish glossary of medical terms and medicines.

UC MEXUS NEWS Summer 1997
Review
By Maria Herrera-Sobek

The soap opera format, a genre popular with millions of radio listeners and television viewers around the world, is the medium cleverly appropriated by Chicano playwright Carlos Morton to structure his *radionovela* (radio soap opera) *Eres un Sueño* (*You Are a Dream*). Specifically targeted to Mexican immigrants, the *radionovela* depicts their experiences in the United States through a series of sixty-15-minute vignettes. Since radio is practically a universal medium of communication, the Mexican producers brilliantly used the venue to convey "informative" about the challenges, rights, and obligations of living in the United States. The series was sponsored by the Secretaria de Relaciones Exteriores (SRE—the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs) under its Programa para las Comunidades Mexicanas en el Extranjero (Program for Mexican Communities Abroad). Many well-known and respected Mexican actors were involved in the production of the work. Such stellar names as Hector Bonilla, Evita Muñoz (Chuchita), Rodrigo Vidal (star of the popular El Premium Joven), Eric del Castillo, Marco Ivan Martinez, and the musical group, Los Tezzerianos, all worked under the direction of Manuel Bauche Alcaide, a script writer and director of soap operas who has years of experience in the field.

The project was initiated in 1995 and funded by the Mexican government at a total cost of 400,000 pesos. From the beginning, the producers made it clear that the proposed *radionovela* was intended to elevate the self-esteem of Mexican immigrants and promote pride in their heritage. At the same time, the radio scripts were targeted to inform Mexican nationals living in the United States about their rights and cultural roots and to offer effective strategies for confronting problematic issues in the United States.

The *radionovela* was first aired on April 15, 1996 and appeared ten times per week on radio station XER in Mexican City. Subsequent airings took place in twelve cities in the United States, including Houston, El Paso, Fresno, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Antonio, San Francisco, and Dallas, among others—selected for their large numbers of immigrant and Mexican-American inhabitants.

The author of *Eres un Sueño*, Carlos Morton, is professor of theatre at the University of California at Riverside. Morton has written several outstanding plays depicting the Chicano experience. He is particularly enthusiastic about the *radionovela* project because of its unique potential for reaching a widespread audience with the educational messages inscribed in the work—messages he considers to be indispensable guidelines for achieving success in the United States. In interviews published in Mexican newspapers such as La Pahoma, Reforma, and La Jornada, Morton expressed his aspirations for the project: "My goal is to help Mexicans to overcome their ambivalence, so they can become organized into a real community, because that is the only way to fight racism."

The work *Eres un Sueño* fits well within the parameters of Morton's previous work, such as *The Deaths of Danny Rosales and Other Plays* (1983) and *Johnny Temario and Other Plays* (1992). Although structured as a comedy, the work conveys—alarming with bitter humor—the painful life experiences of both Chicanos and Mexican immigrants. The plot of the *radionovela* revolves around the experiences of its main protagonists Gerardo and Cordelia (Cordy). Gerardo, a native of Durango, has recently crossed the border without documents and is working as a waiter in a Chinese restaurant. His friends, El Tanque and El Fantasma, work with him and the three share an apartment in Los Angeles. Gerardo hopes that by educating himself, he will have a better future. Cordy is an up-and-coming mobile Chicanas whose goal is to become a lawyer and marry Eric, an Anglo immigration officer. She is also the daughter of immigrant parents, Rogelio and Luz, who are working hard to achieve the American dream and assure a good future for both Cordy and their infant son. Another important character is Rosy, Cordy's best friend and classmate, who eventually marries El Tanque.

Each of the sixty chapters generally focuses on one or two important aspects of life in the United States. For example, the first chapter deals with issues of education and language; in it, Gerardo and El Tanque enroll in a community college. The chapter highlights the travails non-English speakers encounter when enrolling in an educational institution. The underlying message stresses the importance of learning to speak English and getting an education in order to open up job opportunities and as a conduit to a better life. The problems related to language are underscored both in Gerardo's and El Tanque's inability to speak English and in Cordy's inability to speak Spanish when she does so, it becomes clear that in fact her Spanish skills are minimal and she has lost her ability to speak it fluently. The principle conveyed by the radio script is that it is important to be bilingual: to be proud of one's language and to know both English and Spanish.

The problematic issue of AIDS is highlighted in Chapter Five. Fantasma brings up the topic and various misconceptions about AIDS are cleared up. It is a very informative chapter that clearly delineates the medical aspects of AIDS. Tanque, for example, voices the misconception that only homosexuals get infected. He is corrected by Gerardo, who educates Tanque regarding other common held misconceptions: you do not get AIDS by washing the dishes of an AIDS patient; you do not get AIDS from mosquito bites; you do not get AIDS by sitting on a toilet.

Prejudice within the Mexican and Mexican-American communities is highlighted through a name-calling session between Gerardo and Cordy. Gerardo calls Cordy both a gypsy and a pocho (a pejorative term for Chicanas), while Cordy calls Gerardo a wetback. After discussing the terms, both see the stupidity of this type of behavior.

The problematic issues related to *La Migra* (the Border Patrol) are presented from different angles. Eric, Cordy's boyfriend, is a Border Patrol agent who is enrolled in the same community college Cordy, Gerardo, and El Tanque attend. Cordy adopts the "professional" side of Eric's employment, but Eric's fact becomes an absorbing concentration of his interests. He impregnates Cordy and, because he is married, tries to blackmail her into being his mistress. He threatens to deport Gerardo, whom Cordy has come to love, if she does not acquiesce to his demands. In an episode that highlights La Migra's prejudice for power of abuse, Cordy agrees to become Eric's mistress in order to save Gerardo.

The problems related to "machismo" or male chauvinism are emphasized throughout the chapters. Most of the male characters exhibit classic "male" behavior that frequently has Cordy constantly viewing females as sexual objects. Tanque's infidelity, Eric's adulterous intentions and desire to have Cordy as a mistress, Don Rogelio's obsession with family "honor" and this honor placed on Cordy's shoulders are all instances of macho behavior.

Homophobia is likewise broached and criticized. Stereotypes related to humoral behavior—for example, the misconception of being able to identify a homosexual merely by appearance—are demolished.

The review: Maria Herrera-Sobek was professor of Chicana Studies at UC Santa Barbara. Before moving to Sania Barbara to study with Herrera-Sobek was professor of Spanish and Portuguese at UC Irvine. The author of *Eres un Sueño* is Carlos Morton, a professor of Chicana Studies at UC Riverside. This year the *radionovela* is scheduled to be aired on Radio America (1340 AM) in the District of Columbia, southern Maryland, and northern Virginia beginning in June; on RadioSol in central Mexico; on the Transborder Network in northern California and northern South Carolina beginning May 26; on *La Voz Latina* of Radio WOOW in central North Carolina; and on KBBN in Carriagro, Texas.
New Publications

Publications announced below are not distributed by UC MEXUS. They may be ordered directly from their respective publishers or through bookstores.

**Aguas: Desafíos y Oportunidades para el Siglo XXI**

**Teotihuacán: An Experiment in Living with Esther Pasztor.** University of Oklahoma Press, 1005 Asp Avenue, Norman, OK 73019-0445. Tel. (405) 252-5111. 1997, 304 pp., cloth $49.95.


**The Mexican Peso Crisis:** International Perspectives
Edited by Raúl Roa. Lynne Ri- enner Publishers, 1997, 240 pp., cloth $45.00, paper $17.95. This study is aimed at a wide audience for several reasons. Roa and his colleagues have been working on the peso crisis for several years, and the book provides an excellent survey of the various perspectives on the crisis.


**The Migrant Mosaic:** Contemporary Mexican Migration to the United States

**The Mexican Peso Crisis:** International Perspectives
Edited by Raúl Roa. Lynne Ri- enner Publishers, 1997, 240 pp., cloth $45.00, paper $17.95. This study is aimed at a wide audience for several reasons. Roa and his colleagues have been working on the peso crisis for several years, and the book provides an excellent survey of the various perspectives on the crisis.


**The Migrant Mosaic:** Contemporary Mexican Migration to the United States
The author discusses the writers' work individually and provides interviews, literary seminars, and complete bibliographic listings for each writer.

The Mixed Economic Progress of Immigrants
By Robert F. Schenkel, Kevin F. McCarthy, and Georges Versace.
RAND, 1710 Main Street, P.O. Box 2138, Santa Monica, CA 90407-2138. Tel: (210) 431-7202, 1996, 134 pp., paper $15.00. This report examines the differences in the rates of economic progress of immigrants to the United States from different countries of origin and the reasons for these differences. It also assesses whether the economic progress of recent immigrants is slower than that of previous generations of immigrants and examines the economic progress of immigrants in California separately from the remainder of the nation.

All Rise: Reynaldo G. Garza, the First Mexican American Federal Judge
By Louise Ann Fish. Texas A&M University, Drawer C, John H. Lindsey Bldg., College Station, TX 77843-4335. Tel: (800) 826-8911, 1996, 240 pp., cloth $32.95. This biography of the life and career of Reynaldo G. Garza—the first Mexican American appointed as chief judge of a federal district court and also the first appointed to the bench of the U.S. Court of Appeals—studies the impact of ethnic identity on how Garza conducted his professional and personal life and looks specifically at the judicial issues he has faced during his career.
The Encomenderos of New Spain, 1521-1555
By Robert Hinnicher y Valencia. University of Texas Press, P.O. Box 7819, Austin, TX 78713-7819. Tel: (512) 471-7233, 1996, 364 pp., paper $19.95. This study profiles 56 known encomenderos (recipients of encomienda grants) who sailed to the New World during the years 1521-1555, using their life histories to chart the rise, florescence, and decline of the encomienda system. The first part draws general conclusions about the actual workings of the encomienda system. The second part provides concise biographies of the encomenderos themselves.

BorderVisions: Mexican Cultures of the Southwest United States
By Carlos G. Vélez-Ibáñez. University of Arizona Press, 1230 N. Park Avenue, Suite 102, Tucson, AZ 85719-1410. Tel: (520) 621-144, 1996, 335 pp., cloth $45.00, paper $19.95. The author examines the movement of people and ideas from Mexico to the American Southwest United States and discusses how generations of Mexicans have tried to create a sense of cultural space and place in the U.S.-Mexican border region. He also explores the dynamics of cultural "bumping" between Native American, Spanish, Mexican, and Anglo-American cultures.

Yucatan's Maya Poskanz and the Origins of the Caste War
By Terry Ragle. University of Texas Press, P.O. Box 7819, Austin, TX 78713-7819. Tel: (512) 471-7233, 1996, 272 pp., cloth $30.00, paper $19.95. Drawn from a wealth of primary documents, this book represents the first real attempt to reconstruct the history of the pre-Caste War period in Mexico. Rather than adhere to earlier theories that explain the conflict between the Maya and European-derived governments in terms of a single issue, the author explores the intersections of several major social forces, including the church, the hacienda, and peasant vanguarders, and addresses the historical roots of the peasant rebellion that is ongoing in Mexico today.

Previously published in English by the Carnegie Institution of Washington in 1948 and the University of Oklahoma Press in 1958. The volume provides a comprehensive historical account of the Chontal Maya from the time of conquest until the 17th century. The research for the book stems from a previously unknown text in the Chontal language which was found by Scholes in 1933 in the Archivo General de Indias, located in Madrid.

Hispania y Américas en Europa. Volúmenes I
Edited by Virginia Garcia Acosta. Published by CIESAS and the Red de editoriales de en prensa de América Latina (REAP). 1996, 372 pp., $40.00. Collection of ten articles that use a historic perspective of Latin American disasters, such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and droughts, as a window to highlight critical social, political, and economic situations and processes.

Los Sismos en la Historia de México, Tomo I
By Virginia Garcia Acosta and Gerardo Sáez Reyonzo. Published by the Universidad Autónoma de México (UANAM), CIESAS, and the Fondo de Cultura Económica, 1996, 718 pp., cloth $117.00. The first in a three-part series, this large, comprehensive volume provides a chronological compendium of the history of seismic phenomena in Mexico from the mid-fifteenth century to the beginning of the twentieth century. The documentation is based on original sources, such as letters, newspapers, official documents, books, and travelers' accounts, which have been stored in libraries and archives in Mexico and other countries.

Intermediarios del Progreso: Política y Creación Económica en Aguascalientes
By Fernando I. Salmerón Castro. Published by CIESAS. 1996, 314 pp., paper $18.00. This study of the State of Aguascalientes, with an emphasis on the period from 1790 to 1900, provides a regional interpretation of economic and political changes in the context of national and global economic restructuring.

El Delito de Ser Mujer. Hombres y Mujeres Híbridos en la Ciudad de México. Historias de Vida
By Elena Azaola G. Published by Plaza y Valdés, S.A. de C.V., Elena Azaola G. and CIESAS. 1996, 185 pp., paper $18.00. Based on a study of women in prison, the author examines the attitudes of men and women who are serving time for homicide in Mexico City and circumstances that surround the act of homicide. She compares the violent conduct of men and women and notes the differences in the treatment both receive in the judicial system.

Publications of Note from CIESAS
The following publications are available from the Centro de Investigaciones Emocionales Superiores en Antropología Social (CIESAS). For more information contact CIESAS Publications at Hidalgo y Matamoros, Tlácutl C.P. 14000, México C. Tel: (525) 655-6047; e-mail: ciesca@servidor.unam.mx; www.page: http://www.unam.mx/ciases/.

Después del Despido: Desocupación y Familia Obrera
By Margarita Estrada Iguiti. Published by CIESAS. 1996, 226 pp., $16.00. The author looks at the effects of neoliberalism in Mexico on the working class and examines the experience of unemployment in working families in Mexico City. In so doing, she demonstrates how a phenomenon that exists at a global scale, such as structural readjustment, impacts the lives of individuals.

Los Chontales de Acanal-Techkal
UNDERSTANDING THE UC SYSTEM

Great information about the University of California nine-campus system is available on the worldwide web. See the following home pages for details about the UC system, individual campuses, academic departments, research programs, faculty, researchers, and admissions:

UC Berkeley, Berkeley, CA 94720
http://www.berkeley.edu/

UC Davis, Davis, CA 95616
http://www.ucdavis.edu/

UC Irvine, Irvine, CA 92717
http://www.uci.edu/

UC Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA 90095
http://www.ucla.edu/

UC Riverside, Riverside, CA 92521
http://www.ucr.edu/

UC San Diego, La Jolla, CA 92093
http://www.ucsd.edu/

UC San Francisco, San Francisco, CA 94143
http://www.ucsf.edu/

UC Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA 93106
http://www.ucsb.edu/

UC Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, CA 95064
http://www.ucsc.edu/public/index.htm

Office of the President, Kaiser Bldg., 300 Lakeside Drive, Oakland, CA 94612
http://www.ucop.edu/

UC MEXUS NEWS

Editor: Kathryn Vincent
Associate Editor: Andrea Kaus
Editorial Board: Maria Herrera-Sobek (UCSB); Jaime E. Rodriguez (UCI); and Irwin P. Ting (UCR)

UC MEXUS NEWS is published by the University of California Institute for Mexico and the United States (UC MEXUS); Juan-Vicente Palerm, director. All correspondence should be sent to 3324 Olmsted Hall, University of California, Riverside, CA 92521; telephone (909) 787-3519; fax (909) 787-3856. Copyright 1997 by The Regents of the University of California. No article may be reprinted without permission of the publisher. Second class postage paid at Riverside, CA, USPS 131.

Illustrations in this Issue

The drawings in this issue are reproduced from Where There is Life and Struggle: The Art of Rini Templeton, a bilingual (Spanish/English) book, published in 1989 by The Real Comet Press. It may be ordered through bookstores or by contacting the LPC Group, 1436 W. Randolph Street, Chicago, IL 60607. Tel: (800) 243-0138. Rini Templeton was both artist and activist, and her work reflects her involvement and observation of local-level organization against injustice in the United States and Mexico. In this spirit, the book’s editors invite reproduction of the drawings for nonprofit purposes that improve people’s lives.

Printed on recycled paper