Let me begin with a family story. Each spring, my 79-year-old mother leaves her home in McAllen, Texas, and heads to the border city of Reynosa, Mexico, to get her annual “tune-up.” The ritual includes a new wardrobe, “the works” in the local beauty salon, and maybe even a new hair color. My mother says, “Renovarse o morir,” which means, “Renew yourself or die.” My mother’s wisdom applies not only to personal renewal, but also to political renewal. The Occupy Movement has been about renewing democracy, inserting the voices of the 99% into political discourse, and eradicating old forms of governing that damage the majority of citizens. At the department level, we have many areas where we have blossomed and evolved. Among our many renewals are the following:

• Aside from our existing extraordinary talented lecturers, we have hired Chican@ Studies Department

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www.facebook.com/Chicana.o.Studies

We are inspired by the Occupy movements that captivate the economic angst of our times and we are well aware that the 99% figure comprises a disproportionate number of Chicanos, Latinos, and immigrant communities.

In this edition:

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This groundbreaking anthology traces four centuries of Latino/a writing and includes the work of 201 writers from Chicana/o, Puerto Rican, Cuban-American, and Dominican-American traditions as well as writing from other Spanish-speaking countries. The anthology encompasses diverse genres, and it features writers such as José Martí, William Carlos Williams, Julia Alvarez, Oscar Hijuelos, Cristina García, Piri Thomas, Esmeralda Santiago, and Junot Díaz.


Tying Headbands presents a new conceptual continuity between ancient Mayan and Central Mexican codex records. Revising both the mathematical and textual interpretations of the Dresden Codex Venus Table, this book uses a new reading of the hieroglyphic verb /k’al/ to reveal a ritual ‘enclosing’ of space and time at the core of Mesoamerican religions.


This book is an oral history/testimonio of Sal Castro, his life and times. Castro traces, in his own words, his coming of age in Los Angeles in the 1930s and 1940s; his early years as a high school teacher; and covers his major role in the historic 1968 “blowouts” when thousands of Chicano students walked out of their schools to protest years of educational segregation and inferiority in their schools.


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This is a groundbreaking interdisciplinary volume that addresses the dearth of scholarship and information about Latino men and boys to further our understanding of the unique challenges and obstacles they confront. The volume offers research and policy that decreases the invisibility and disenfranchisement of Latino men and boys. The contributors represent a cross section of disciplines from health, criminal justice, education, literature, psychology, economics, labor, sociology, and more.

Demetria Martínez receives the 2011 Luis Leal Award!

(Santa Barbara, CA) – This year, Demetria Martínez (novelist, poet, journalist, and writing coach) became the recipient of the 2011 Luis Leal Award for Distinction in Chicano/a Latina/o Literature. The award was given to Martínez on Thursday, October 27th, in the Corwin Pavilion, at the UCSB campus. The event was attended by more than 600 students, faculty, and community members.

Born and raised in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Martínez is well known for her novel Mother Tongue, where she exposes the struggles of Central Americans in their quest to achieve legal refugee status, as a consequence of the region’s civil conflicts of the 1980’s. Mother Tongue (recipient of the Western States Book Award for fiction) is in part inspired by Martínez’s own experiences with the Sanctuary Movement. Her journalistic involvement with this movement led to her being tried in 1988 for her alleged support in the smuggling of two pregnant Salvadorans into the United States. She was found not guilty of those charges.

Martínez’s numerous literary works also include, Breathing Between the Lines (1997), The Devil’s Workshop (2002), Confessions of a Berlitz-Tape Chicana (2006), Grandpa’s Magic Tortilla (2010), and her forthcoming collection of short fiction, The Block Captain’s Daughter.

(Chair’s Message... from page 1) two young scholars who have rejuvenated our existing courses. Felicia Montes, MFA, is an artist and performer and is teaching “Contemporary Chicana/o Art.” Check out her video at (http://youtu.be/EHglhK7xK).

Dr. Georgina Guzman, who earned her doctoral degree in English at UCLA, is working on a book-length manuscript entitled: Affective Archives: Racialized, Immigrant, and Gendered Labor and the Politics of Shame and Empathy in Chicana/o Literature. She is teaching “Chicana Writers.”

We have a new cohort of four extraordinarily talented graduate students who have joined our other equally talented 24 graduate students: Janett Barragan, Juan Sebastian Ferrada, Adriana Simone, and Silvia T. Villarreal.

Our faculty and graduate students continue to write books, journal articles, chapters, present at conferences, and teach. Our department is a vibrant and productive intellectual environment full of engagement and innovation.

We are looking forward to a new hire during this academic year.

We will be hosting the annual meetings of MALCS (Mujeres Activas en Letras y Cambio Social; http://www.malcs.org/) in August 2012. In preparation for this momentous event, we will also be hosting the National Coordinating Committee Mid-year Meetings January 20-21, 2012.

There is no doubt all of the activity and energy surrounding our department would make my mother proud. She revels in change and innovation. “Haz algo; no nada más estés parada,” was the refrain in our house—always abuzz with activity, laughter, chistes, and innovation. Renovarse o morir—indeed.

Félix Navidad y Prospero Año Nuevo. May the holidays bring you and your loved ones, renewal, energy, movement, and glorious happenings in the coming year.
Q. You teach, quite possibly, the largest Chicana Studies class in the nation. Which theme or topic within those ten weeks is your favorite? And what do you have for breakfast before lecturing to over 500 and soon to nearly 700 students?

My favorite topics compare gender norms past and present. It’s interesting to see what has changed and what has not within Chicana/o culture and to witness the variations that have always been present, especially in how different Chicanas have responded to the constraints and opportunities that they have faced. I also really enjoy the weeks on labor, educational opportunity, and political activism. I eat chorizo and eggs with sauteed spinach on the side for breakfast so I don’t run out of steam in the middle of the performance.

Q. Are there any new trends in either Chicana and Chicano Studies or Political Thought that have influenced your next research project?

I’m still interested in Gloria Anzaldúa’s account of mestiza consciousness and in further exploring the political implications of inner diversity. In my first book, Wealth of Selves, I focused a lot on the potential contradictions among aspects of the self and how those rifts might influence political life. In my new book project, I’m extending this by identifying different types of inner contradictions, as well as the conditions that produce those contradictions (e.g. collective trauma) and their effects on the perpetuation of racial hierarchies in our “post-racial” era.

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Dissertations are the most exciting part of a graduate student's research and the most terrifying. Fear not! Our seasoned experts have come up with these tips to get you through the dissertation and maybe even all of your graduate education. If your nightmares involve computer crashes that delete all your work or being crushed under a pile of research books, these tips will alleviate your fears and get you well on your way to recovery.

**Eddy Alvarez**

- Following Chela Sandoval's SWAPA (Spoken Word Art Performance Activism) method, I pick a quote from relevant readings (sometimes non-relevant readings) and start freewriting on this quote. Paying attention to intellectual, emotional, and physical responses, I write without worrying about structure. Later on, I edit and extrapolate what will work for my dissertation. On these occasions, my writing is more connected and flows better.

- Black coffee, a little sugar, and Nina Simone on the radio!

**Jose Anguiano**

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**Thomas Carrasco**

- Spend money on a good laptop!

- Ask around…

- Dedicate time to do some exercise…

- Coffee shops are great places to work, but be aware of those places where you may find other people that may distract you. WRITING HOURS are NOT the same as OFFICE HOURS or HAPPY HOURS.

**William Calvo-Quiros**

- Be as organized as possible.

- Have writing deadlines.

- Have a professor on your committee that you have access to.

**Amber Rose González**

- Be patient with writing blocks. They will happen. Try doing something else related to your project where you can still be productive while giving

(Continued on next page 6)
(Dissertation... from previous page)

Yourself a breather to overcome the block.

- Make sure that when you present at a conference, it’s related to your dissertation work—a chapter, a section of a chapter, research findings, etc. There will be plenty of time to present on secondary projects (I just learned this one myself).

Francisco Fuentes

Dissertation: Christian Youth Culture and Chicano Communities at the San Diego-Tijuana Border.

- If you are an early-bird writer, a good night’s sleep and exercise beats coffee in the morning.

- Take notes to stay organized. Taking notes is an incredible tool to stay organized in the dissertation process. Taking notes on your writing, in addition to note-taking on books, is helpful in developing writing skills and deepening the content in your text.

- Spoken words can spark ideas as much as written ones. Do not hesitate to speak your ideas out loud or share them with others.

Adrianna M. Santos


- I have always loved writing, but the dissertation is an entirely different animal from poetry, short story, essay, or even an academic article. It is a lengthy and complicated process, but it is also a passion for me. To keep interested and motivated, I suggest continuing to read for pleasure, making time for friends and family, self-care, and outlining a detailed writing plan (be open to changing it if you get inspired in a specific direction). You are, after all, an expert on your topic.

- Most of all, love what you do. I count my blessings every night that I am in a position to do what I love every day.

Cristina Serna

Dissertation: Deconstructing the Nation: Queer and Feminist Art in Mexican and Chicano@ Social Movements.

- It has been very helpful to make a work plan each semester and set clear, measurable goals. This includes making a list of specific tasks and putting them on a calendar. It has also been very useful to sit down on Sundays to plan my work calendar for the week; it makes my week more productive. I recommend blocking out a set amount of writing hours each day.

- The following online tool has been useful for getting started on a brand new piece of writing when I am feeling stuck and need an extra push: http://writeordie.com/#Web+App

Jessie Turner

Dissertation: Mixed and Mixed: Inheritance and Intersectionality in the Identity Formation and Identity Migration of People with Mexican and Other Ethnoracial Backgrounds.

- Don’t try to power through when you feel your brain turning to mush after already working for several hours. Take a 30 minute break to go for a walk, watch TV, or read a book for fun in order to clear your mind and be fresh to start again.

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The Chicana and Chicano Studies department hosts a weekly colloquium series inviting students, faculty, staff, and community members to “come and take a sip of knowledge.” To date the department has held over 50 presentations providing an intellectual space to share research, participate in fruitful discussions and foster community.

forthcoming

Colloquium [Winter Schedule]
Wednesdays 3:30 pm [Dolores Huerta Hall, SH 1623]

January 11th
WOMEN OF COLOR LAWYER PANEL
(Jessica Delgado, Simona Farrise and Arcelia Hurtado)

January 18th
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP
(D. Inés Casillas, Chicana/o Studies Dept. UCSB)

January 25th
FUNDATIONAL READING LIST CEREMONY IN HONOR OF DR. LUIS LEAL

February 1st
FELICIA LOPEZ, CODEX BORGIA WORKSHOP
(Chicana/o Studies Dept. Graduate Student, UCSB)

February 8th
THOMAS CARRASCO
(Chicana/o Studies Dept, Graduate Student, UCSB)

February 17-18th
CHICANO MOVEMENT CONFERENCE

February 22nd
CARLOS MORTON, THEATER AND DANCE, UCSB

February 29th
ELENA Gutiérrez, GENDER & WOMEN’S STUDIES, UIC CHICAGO

March 7th
CRISTINA SERNA
(Chicana/o Studies Dept, Graduate Student, UCSB)

March 14th
NO COLLOQUIUM
ATTENDING THE NACCS CONFERENCE (Chicago, March 14th-17th)
The University of California, Santa Barbara
Department of Chicana and Chicano Studies

The Department of Chicana and Chicano Studies invites applications for a ladder-rank faculty position. This search is open to all research foci within the discipline and is open rank. The appointment will be effective July 1, 2012.

The department emphasizes interdisciplinarity and has the distinction of instituting the first PhD program in Chicana and Chicano Studies in the nation. Applications are welcome in all areas of expertise in Chicana/o Studies. Candidates should be engaged in research projects, motivated to provide undergraduate and graduate mentorship, and have prior teaching experience within one or more of the department’s three areas of focus: History and Narrativity, Cultural Production, and Social Processes (see the department’s website for details: www.chicst.ucsb.edu).

Applications must be received by January 15, 2012 for primary consideration; however, the position will remain open until filled. The Ph.D. degree must be completed by the time of appointment. Submit cover letter, samples of published books and articles or two dissertation chapters, statement of teaching philosophy, and three letters of recommendation directly to the department: Aida Hurtado, Chair, Department of Chicana and Chicano Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA 93106-4120.

For further information, contact Joann Erving, Business Manager at jerving@chicst.ucsb.edu or consult the department’s website at www.chicst.ucsb.edu.

An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

deadline
January 15th, 2012
A CONFERENCE ON THE EMERGING HISTORIOGRAPHY OF THE CHICANO MOVEMENT

FEBRUARY 17-18, 2012
8:30 am - 5 pm

McCUNE CONFERENCE ROOM
6020 HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCE BLDG
FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Sponsors
Chicano Studies Institute; Dept. of Chicana and Chicano Studies; Office of the Executive Vice-Chancellor; Dean of Social Science, College of Letters and Science; Office of Equal Opportunity & Sexual Harassment; Interdisciplinary Humanities Center; Center for New Racial Studies; Latin American & Iberian Studies.

For more information, contact Prof. Mario T. Garcia (805) 893-4074