



National Latino Research Center

California State University San Marcos

Vol. 2 No. 1 ♦ Winter/Spring 2005

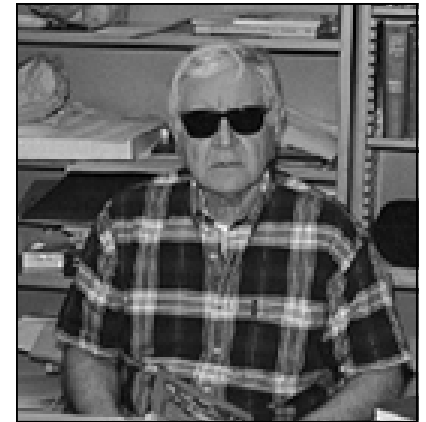
A Quarterly Newsletter

In this Issue

- ♦ Dr. Rodolfo Acuña
"In Search of Chihuahuaita"
- ♦ Director's Message
- ♦ Oaxacan Community
Workshop: A Great
Success!
- ♦ Upcoming Events
- ♦ Project Highlight:
Border Health
- ♦ Community Events
- ♦ New Study of Children
in U.S.-Mexico Border
- ♦ Fact Sheets Available at
NLRC Website
- ♦ NLRC Projects Updates

Dr. Rodolfo Acuña to speak at CSUSM

The National Latino Research Center and the Arts & Lectures Series are pleased to host a lecture by Dr. Rodolfo Francisco Acuña, on February 24, 2005 at 7:00 PM in ARTS 240 (CSUSM), to meet students, faculty, staff, and community activists. A public reception will begin at 5:30 PM.



Background

Considered by academics and activists as one of the most influential scholars in the field of Chicano Studies, Dr. Rodolfo Acuña joined the ranks of the Chicano Generation of Mexican Americans in the United States responsible for shaping the course of the Chicano Civil Rights Movement, *El Movimiento Chicano*. When asked by the American Historical Association why he became a historian, Dr. Acuña responded that mainstream history had neglected the history of Mexicans in the United States. This persuaded him to join the movement to establish Chicano Studies—an interdisciplinary field examining the history of Mexicans on both sides of the border.

Dr. Acuña was born in Boyle Heights, California on May 18, 1932 and grew up east of downtown Los Angeles. He completed his doctoral degree in Latin American Studies at the University of Southern California in 1968 and taught the first Chicano history class in 1966. He joined the faculty at California State University Northridge (CSUN) in 1969. At CSUN, he was the first chairman of the Chicano Studies Department, the oldest and largest Chicano studies program in the country.

His academic contributions trace the conquest of northern Mexico by the United States and the systematic conflicts over land, language, and civil rights of Chicanos from the 1800s to the present. His work combines impressive scholarship and passionate advocacy for civil and human rights. He continues to inspire academic researchers and social activists.

Dr. Acuña has authored over fifteen books on topics relating to Chicanos and Latinos in the United States, including *Occupied America: A History of Chicanos*, the most renowned text of Chicano history. First published in 1972, *Occupied America* continues to be a seminal work in race and ethnic studies courses nationwide.

For more information, please contact David Ortiz at dortiz@csusm.edu or Dr. Arcela Núñez-Álvarez at anunez@csusm.edu.

National Latino Research Center
Cal State San Marcos
333 S. Twin Oaks Valley Road
San Marcos, CA 92096-0001
Tel 760.750.3500
Fax 760.750.3510
Email: nlrc@csusm.edu
www.csusm.edu/nlrc

Greetings from the NLRC Director



Dr. González
NLRC Director

Happy New Year! This semester I am on sabbatical leave but the NLRC is in the capable hands of Associate Director Sonia Taddy. I am heading to Zurich for a period of research and study. I will return to the NLRC directorship after the end of this semester.

The NLRC continues to work on several ongoing projects and will initiate several new projects this year. Ongoing projects include Latino Oral History, Community Action to Fight Asthma, and the Agricultural Workers Health Initiative. New projects include ExpelBound, a study of expulsions in Escondido and Vista schools. In addition, the NLRC will be examining gang prevention in North San Diego County.

We are proud to have initiated the invitation for Dr. Rodolfo Acuña to speak this month at Cal State San Marcos. We thank the Arts & Lectures committee for the support to bring Dr. Acuña. During the semester, the NLRC is co-sponsoring presentations on Women's International Day and the Women of Juárez. We will keep you informed on new developments. I look forward to seeing you upon my return.

Oaxacan Community Workshop: A Great Success!

On October 15th 2004 the NLRC presented the "Oaxacan Community Workshop" in San Marcos, California. Over 150 individuals representing diverse agencies attended the one-day event. The goal of the workshop was to raise awareness among local health care agencies, law enforcement and social service agencies, educators, and foundations about the Oaxacan indigenous immigrant community in North County San Diego. While it is unknown exactly how many Oaxacan indigenous immigrants currently reside in San Diego County, several sources estimate the population to be the largest and fastest growing group at around 25,000 people. This newest group of immigrants face amplified barriers to health, social and educational services compared to other Mexican immigrants.

Highlights of the event included presentations on Mixtec traditional medicine by Dr. Bonnie Bade and Erasto Camacena, a local Mixtec herbalist; a presentation by Carmelino Cruz who represented "Chapulín," a community collaborative working toward importing Oaxacan food to California; and a dance presentation by "Los Diablos" from the Mixtec community of San Miguel Tlacotepec. Santiago Ventura, the keynote speaker for the event, spoke of the importance of culturally and linguistically appropriate services for Oaxacan indigenous migrants and related his own story of how language barriers in a California Courtroom led to him being wrongfully convicted for murder.

The NLRC plans to maintain the momentum initiated at the conference. Many participants expressed an interest to join a network/collaboration of agencies, institutions, and community-based organizations to promote and implement strategies that are culturally appropriate and community specific for the indigenous Oaxacan community. The issues of most interest are health and healthcare access; language access for indigenous language speakers; cultural awareness among health and human service agencies; human and legal rights; immigration; and Oaxacan traditional medicinal practices. The NLRC plans to hold a follow-up meeting in March of 2005 to discuss "next steps" and future initiatives.

As a result, partnerships between the Oaxacan community and the City of Vista have already emerged. The NLRC is confident that the workshop has served to begin a dialogue and network of agencies, individuals and institutions that hope to improve the health and well-being of Oaxacan Communities in San Diego County and in the State of California.

The event was held in collaboration with the Coalition of Indigenous Communities from Oaxaca (COCIO) and the Frente Indígena Oaxaqueño Binacional (FIOB). The event was sponsored by The California Endowment, the U.S.-Mexico Border Health Commission and the California-Mexico Health Initiative as part of their annual Binational Health Week. The Office of the President at Cal State San Marcos also provided funding for the event.

For more information about this and future events, please go to www.csusm.edu/nlrc/events/ or call (760) 750-3500.



Dance Group "Los Diablos" from San Miguel Tlacotepec performing at OCW

Upcoming Events

- ◆ **“The Scholarship & Activism of Racial Justice: Conversations with Researchers & Practitioners”**
February 22, 2005 at the Malcolm X Library, from 6-8 PM
The NLRC and Activist San Diego sponsor this public lecture by Melanie E. L. Bush, author of *Breaking the Code of Good Intentions: Everyday Forms of Whiteness*. Malcolm X Library is located at 5148 Market St. San Diego, CA. For more information please call (619) 582-5383.
- ◆ **“Searching for Chihuahueta” by Dr. Rodolfo Acuña**
February 24, 2005 in ARTS 240 @ 7:00 PM
- ◆ **International Women’s Day Panel**
March 8, 2005 in Grand Salon @ 4-6 PM
Panelists: Professors Maribel García, Cynthia Metoyer, Jule Gómez de García, and Vasanthi Shenoy.
Please join the NLRC and the Women Studies Department to commemorate International Women’s Day! CSUSM professors, with expertise in women's studies, will share their research, work, and experiences about diverse issues shaping women's lives around the world. Topics concerning gender and identity, literacy, education, and politics in countries such as Nicaragua, Guatemala, Cuba, India, and the U.S.-Mexico border will be discussed. Everyone is welcome to attend and participate in this discussion.
- ◆ **“Justice for the Women of Juárez”**
March 22, 2005 in CSUSM @ 6-9 PM
The NLRC and the Women’s Studies Student Association sponsor an evening of remembrance for the over 400 unsolved femicides of young women near the U.S.-Mexico Border. The featured speakers are Patricia Cervantes, the mother of Neyra Azucena who disappeared May 13, 2003 and a member of Justicia para Nuestras Hijas. In addition, Sandra Bello, a human rights activist and photographer of the project, “Reacciona Mujer con Furia,” will discuss the work taking place in Tijuana. For more information contact Dr. Arcela Núñez-Álvarez at anunez@csusm.edu or Nancy Martinez at mar-ti195@csusm.edu.
- ◆ **“Mixtec Medicine Art Exhibit”**
April 10, 2005 at the Main Gallery of the California Center for the Arts, Escondido
The Mixtec Medicine Collaboration celebrates the antiquity, intelligence and beauty of Mixtec culture and medicine. Cal State San Marcos anthropologist Bonnie Bade and visual artist Deborah Small have created an exhibition to highlight the medicinal concepts and practices of the indigenous Mixtec people of Oaxaca, Mexico. The exhibit will run from early April through May. The NLRC is a co-sponsor of the April 10th inaugural event. More information is available at (800) 988-4253.
- ◆ **“Taking the Early Bus”**
May 19, 2005 in the CSUSM Kellogg Library @ 6:30 PM
Kellogg Library and North County Health Services bring to campus a photographic project about the work and daily life of recent Latino immigrants and migrants. Exhibit will run from late April through August, open during all library hours. An opening reception and lecture by local photographer Leland Forester will be held in front of Kellogg Library on May 19th at 6:30 PM. For more information call (760) 750-4378 or visit <http://library.csusm.edu>.



NLRC Conducts Border Health Research

By *Konane Martínez*, Health Projects Coordinator

In January of 2004 the NLRC was commissioned by The California Endowment to conduct a study of organizational and systems-wide needs in border health. The final report was released in November of 2004.

The research project involved thirty-two participants in seventeen agencies and organizations working in the border region. Participants in this research were asked to provide feedback on the most urgent border health issues, organizational capacity needs in the border region, and system-wide needs in border health.

The study found that agencies, both public and private, advocate a particular approach to health in the border region. Due to distinctive demographic, ecological, social and cultural factors, a set of special health indicators has emerged that require a binational approach.

When asked to define “border health” participants overwhelmingly agreed that border health is a range of shared public health issues that span the international border and require binational collaboration to be effectively addressed. These health issues share common geographic, demographic, social and cultural characteristics. For example, air quality and water are of considerable concern given that the geographic region shares the same air basin and water shed; cross-border migration and binational families that work and live in the region contribute to a demographic and social reality that characterizes the region; and culture and economics influences health beliefs and practices that span the border.

Among the most pressing health issues identified by participants were public health emergencies, access to health care, environmental health, infectious diseases, HIV and AIDS, substance abuse, mental health, and migrant worker health.

At a glance:
Pressing Organizational and Systems Wide Issues in Border Health

1. Isolated and Uncoordinated Efforts
2. Lack of Organizational Infrastructure
3. Inequitable Partnerships
4. Lack of a Protocol and best practices in binational collaboration
5. Sustainability

The research revealed that isolated and uncoordinated efforts in border health, lack of organizational infrastructure, lack of a best practices in border health/binational collaboration, and sustainability play key roles in the capacity of agencies working in the border region.

The research also uncovered pressing issues specific to Imperial County, a historically underserved county in southern California. It was found that health professionals see a great need for more local investment in health agencies, more data and research that can be applied to local health concerns and in the creation of new programs, more research and documentation on best practices in the county, improved access to services for the community, intense capacity building for regional leadership, and coalition efforts as well as finding ways to better involve the community in health care program development and implementation.

The results of the research were presented in public forums in both San Diego and Imperial counties. Participants in these forums expressed great interest and enthusiasm in receiving both a written and oral presentation of the results and state that the results will help further the case for a binational approach to health in the border region. A coalition has been formed in Imperial County to address the gaps and needs identified in the report. The National Latino Research Center is grateful to The California Endowment for their interest and leadership in the area of border health and to the many individuals and agencies that participated in the research.

A copy of the full report “The Border that Divides and Unites: Addressing Border Health in California.” can be found on The California Endowment’s website at <http://www.calendow.org> as well as on the NLRC’s website at: <http://www.csusm.edu/nlrc/publications/>

At a glance:
Asthma Health Disparities in the Imperial County Border Region

- ◆ Imperial County has the highest asthma hospitalization rates in the state of California.
- ◆ Poor air quality in the County is attributed to agricultural burning and pesticides, idling vehicles at the border, and electrical power plants.
- ◆ While several clean air and asthma coalitions exist in the county efforts are divided, uncoordinated and politically tense.

Community Events

2005 San Diego Cesar E. Chavez Essay Contest Deadline for receipt of entries is March 17th 2005

Sponsored by the San Diego Cesar E. Chavez Commemorative Committee and University of California San Diego Early Academic Outreach. This essay contest is open to San Diego, Imperial, and Orange County students in grades 9-12. All prize recipients will be honored with a plaque at the 7th Annual Cesar E. Chavez Commemorative Breakfast to be held at the San Diego Convention Center on Monday, March 28, 2005. The winners will also be recognized at community celebrations honoring Cesar E. Chavez. For more information, contact Rafael Hernández at (858)534-4250 or e-mail rsbernandez@ucsd.edu



Immigration and U.S. Citizenship in an Era of Homeland Security

Thursday, March 31, 2005, from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Omni Los Angeles Hotel at California Plaza, Los Angeles, CA

Register by March 18 and pay only \$39.00!

Topics include: Border Enforcement and ICE Raids on the Hispanic Community, Naturalization, Citizenship, Impact of War on Immigration and Naturalization. Download the full program at

www.trpi.org/spring.pdf



New Studies of Children at U.S.-Mexico Border Show Notable Difference Between California's Border and Other Border States

Two first-ever reports on how children who live near the U.S.-Mexico border are faring show significant differences between California's two U.S.-Mexico border counties and the nation's three other border states. *A Snapshot of Children on the California Border*, a report produced by Children Now, is the California portion of a new four-state report by the Annie E. Casey Foundation that provides a picture of how all children along the U.S.-Mexico border are doing, comparing California, Texas, New Mexico and Arizona.

For more information or to get the full report, go to www.childrennow.org/newsroom/news-05/pr-02-09-05.cfm

Examining Health Disparities in the Border Region

The NLRC has recently published two fact sheets on health disparities among the residents of California's two border counties. The fact sheets highlight disparities in access to health care, health care utilization, and health status among U.S.-born citizens, naturalized citizens, and non-U.S. citizens living in San Diego County and Imperial County. These fact sheets are the first in a series of profiles to be published by the NLRC. Upcoming fact sheets will focus on additional health issues, educational disparities, and demographic trends in the region.

To view our fact sheets go to the NLRC website at www.csusm.edu/nlrc/publications/

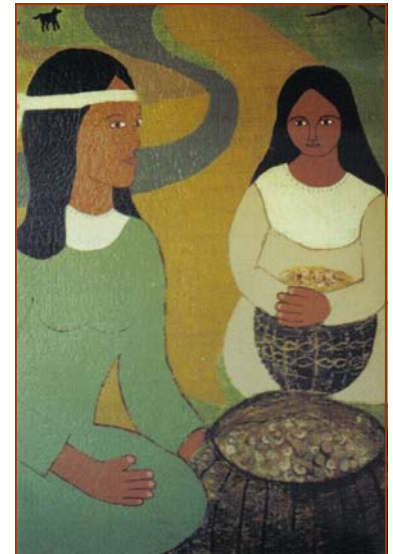
Al Norte de San Diego: Oral Histories of Latinos in San Diego

By Dr. Arcela Núñez-Álvarez, Education Projects Coordinator

Twelve community stories gathered through *Al Norte de San Diego* begin to document the history of Latinos in Escondido who comprise 42% (2004 SANDAG) of the city's population. Participants voiced many challenges and opportunities they experienced while carving a space for their families in Escondido. Topics discussed in the oral histories included migration and immigration, community and family, connections to the past, social and cultural life, racial inequality, and labor.

The project seeks to rediscover and document community history and Latino contributions to local development. This project provides a forum for community residents to voice their past experiences, explore the current situation of Latinos, and plan for their future as equal participants in the city's democratic process. The project intends to achieve the following objectives: 1) Increase awareness about Latinos by recording and documenting Escondido's Latino past; 2) increase communication between the City of Escondido, schools, community residents, and California State University San Marcos by increasing outreach to Latino residents and encouraging their engagement in civic affairs; 3) positively represent Latino history in public spaces by involving residents in planning, design and implementation of activities; 4) involve youth in documentation of oral histories through involvement of youth at local schools in documenting and writing family histories; 5) form a Latino history advisory group of community residents, and 6) expand the project to encompass the entire San Diego County.

The next steps include analyzing and interpreting oral histories and designing a Latino oral history collection and preservation project at local historical societies. In addition, the project will expand to other cities throughout San Diego County. Funding for this project was provided by The Bravo Foundation and the California Council for the Humanities.



Women in Pala Mission

Photo by Tanya Vazquez

Latino Oral History Feature: "Break Down Barriers" ~ Richard Victor Nagtalon



Richard Victor Nagtalon, circa 1946
Bracero Camp in Escondido

Born August 14, 1941 to María and José Nagtalon in Escondido, California, Richard's life embodies the struggles and successes of Mexican and Filipino immigrants. His parents, after working as migrant laborers throughout California, lived at the lemon grove bracero camp from the mid-1940s to the late 1950s. Richard grew up among culturally diverse families of industrious Mexicans, Filipinos, Native Americans, Irish, and Scandinavians who shared their economic and social life at the camp.

The camp housed about 200 Mexican workers brought to work under the bilateral agreement known as the Bracero Program. Located on the corner of Quince Street and Grand Avenue, the camp is now the site of the North County Transit Center.

According to Richard, his parents were industrious and respectable individuals who enjoyed living in Escondido. Don José worked for the Sunkist Company for many years. Doña María, although she completed only a third-grade education

in Mexico, taught herself to read and write in English. She washed clothes for others, distributed Avon products, and was a strong disciplinarian at home. The Nagtalons raised two children, Richard and Frances. They were dedicated Catholics involved in social organizations such as the Knights of Columbus and volunteered at St. Mary's Church. They encouraged Richard to play football and baseball because sports "break down barriers."

Richard married Betty and together raised six children: Richard, Michelle, Felice, Angela, Michael, and Joe. He joined the military and then attended college with the help of the GI Bill while working to support his family. After working for 27 years with the Sony Company in Rancho Bernardo, he retired and now spends much of his time coaching his grandchildren's little league teams in Escondido. The NLRC is currently helping to organize his family photo collection for preservation at the Pioneer Room in Escondido.

West Fullerton Asthma Project Update

By Sonia Taddy, Associate Director

The West Fullerton Improvement Committee has been working together since 1997 to address numerous challenges associated with poverty in the West Fullerton area of Orange County, California. Through their work in the community, asthma and poor housing were identified by community members as issues requiring immediate action. The link between poor housing and asthma, and the opportunity to mobilize residents and community partners around this issue prompted the collaborative to seek funding from The California Endowment (TCE). With a three year grant, the group initiated FACTS, a multi-pronged approach to reducing the incidence of asthma episodes among children at high risk for asthma based on environmental conditions and lack of access to health care.

In July 2004, the NLRC partnered with the West Fullerton Improvement Committee to provide program evaluation services for a new initiative called the **Fullerton Asthma Collaborative Treatment Services (FACTS)**. The Collaborative is working to create a culturally appropriate structure for reaching residents, improving living conditions, expanding the health care access of southwest Fullerton's under-served, low-income Spanish speaking community. Specifically, their goals include:

- ✦ Provide outreach, education and individualized in-home guidance for the management of indoor allergens for families affected by asthma or asthma and allergy symptoms.
- ✦ Increase access to appropriate asthma medical treatment and follow-up.
- ✦ Build resident capacity to influence policy that will improve housing conditions.

The community partnership includes St. Jude Medical Center, the Sierra Health Center, the Orange County Human Relations Council, Latino Health Access (LHA), the Orange County Congregation Community Organization (OCCCO), Orangethorpe United Methodist Church, Orangethorpe Elementary School, and The Kennedy Commission. For more information about this project, please contact Sonia Taddy at staddy@csusm.edu

Expelbound

By Dr. Arcela Núñez-Álvarez, Education Projects Coordinator

Expelbound is a pilot project in Vista and Escondido that will explore causes of school expulsions of Latino youth in San Diego County, investigate support services available to parents, and facilitate parent advocacy efforts to support educational access for Latino youth. This project has three components: 1) Research will examine expulsion trends of Latino youth in North San Diego County K-12 schools, 2) community outreach will reach out to parents of youth who have been expelled from schools, providing educational materials for parents (in Spanish), and helping Latino parents organize an advisory group to encourage greater Latino parent participation, and 3) policy and advocacy will facilitate a community planning process to evaluate expulsion policy in North San Diego County schools.

Case study of José Garcia

José Garcia (real name has been changed to protect his identity) completed elementary school without significant obstacles. In middle school, he began to change the way he dressed, a style many teachers associate with gang affiliation. As a seventh grader, José got in trouble and faced the possibility of expulsion for "planning to get into a fight." After being out of school for over a month while waiting for a hearing at the school district office, he was expelled from the school district. José and his family were forced to seek a school outside of the district area that would allow him to enroll. After searching out a few options, he was accepted by an alternative school, located far from home. Approximately a month later, unable to get to school every day, José stopped attending school. By the end of the academic year, José had dropped out of school altogether. Today he is discouraged with the school system and wonders what he will be doing in the near future. His family doesn't know how to help him get back on track. José "hangs out" with friends who are in and out of youth correctional facilities. Recently, he was arrested and spent three months in juvenile hall for "intent to sell" marijuana. For additional information or to help fund this project, contact Dr. Arcela Núñez-Alvarez at anunez@csusm.edu

