



National Latino Research Center Newsletter

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The NLRC's Mission
To contribute to the knowledge and understanding of rapidly growing Latino populations through applied research, training, technical assistance, and research-based services.

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

Ni Una Más

November 25 commemorates the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. On November 22, Arts and Lectures and the National Latino Research Center hosted the screening of the documentary, *NI UNA MÁS (Not One More)* by Alejandra Sánchez, at Cal State San Marcos to increase public awareness about the brutal serial killings of over 400 women in Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua, México.

Filmmaker, Alejandra Sánchez, born in Chihuahua, México in 1973, completed undergraduate studies in Communication at the Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana in 1996. From 1999 to 2003, she studied film and cinematography at the Centro Universitario de Estudios Cinematográficos at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México and received a Masters degree from the Universidad Intercontinental in 2005.



Crosses mark the ditch in Ciudad Juárez where the bodies of 8 women were found in 2001.

Ms. Sánchez has directed numerous documentary projects at the Instituto Politécnico Nacional and directed "In-Vitro," a scientific program produced by Channel 11 for three years. Her feature films include: "Son Niños" (2000), "El Alquimista" (1996), "Me quedé viuda muy pronto" (1998), "Desdentado desde entonces" (1999), "Ni una más" (2000) y "Te Apuesto y te gano" (2002). She has received numerous awards for the documentary *NI UNA MÁS*. In 2004, Ms. Sánchez received the fellowship, Talent Campus and was invited

to participate in the Film Festival in Berlin. She has presented her work throughout Mexico, in Buenos Aires, Munich, New York, and Lebanon.

NI UNA MÁS deals with the plight of poor Mexican and Indigenous migrant women who are relegated to a disposable workforce for foreign-owned assembly plants and powerful Mexican elites along the United States-Mexico border. Along the border frontier, a zone far from Mexico City and Washington D.C., violence is part of daily life for border residents caught in the middle of expanding global markets and the trafficking of humans, products, and services.



Explanations as to why Mexican women are being abducted and brutally murdered have ranged from forced prostitution and organ trafficking, to satanic rituals. However, insufficient evidence denies elements of any particular theory that could explain all these crimes, nor are any of the possible hypothesis exclusive. The documentary posits that the Mexican government shelters corruption and lawlessness while ignoring the pleas for justice from victims' mothers and relatives.

Story continues on page 3

Greetings from the NLRC Director



Dr. González
NLRC Director

Since our last newsletter release, in October 2005, the NLRC has been keeping active with new research projects, events, and community activities.

The NLRC is gearing up for new projects and community partnerships including research on health, education, and community development. The NLRC has secured two new grants. The Community Action to Fight Asthma (CAFA) is a renewed \$425,000 three-year grant from

the California Endowment to expand our technical assistance for community asthma coalitions throughout Southern California.

Also, the Poder Popular project is a \$600,000 three-year grant from the California Endowment's Agricultural Worker's Health Initiative (AWHI). The Poder Popular project is designed to empower farmworkers to identify, prioritize, and address their public health needs. The project is collaboration between the NLRC, Vista Community Clinic, Community HousingWorks, and farmworkers in North San Diego County communities. Alejandrina Ricardez has been hired to coordinate the Poder Popular project for the NLRC.

The NLRC is also co-sponsoring several educational events this semester. On February 9, Dr. Jorge Mariscal, UCSD professor of Ethnic Studies, discussed his book "Brown-eyed Children of the Sun" and issues of social justice and equity. On April 4, Dolores Huerta, vice-president of the United Farmworkers (UFW) Union, will present on campus as part of the university Arts & Lectures series. For additional events, please visit our website at www.csusm.edu/nlrc.

The NLRC is looking forward to the new year with renewed energy and enthusiasm. We hope to see you during the year.

New Staff ~ Ale Ricardez

Ale Ricardez has come on board at the National Latino Research Center as the Field Project Coordinator for the Poder Popular Project.

Ale graduated from Cal State San Marcos with a Bachelor's degree in Sociology in 1997. She also earned a Master's degree in the School of Public Policy and Social Research at UCLA. Her master's work focused on international and regional economic development with a particular interest in the character and role of Home Town Associations and remittances in economic development in Oaxaca, Mexico.

Ale has worked for over a decade in the areas of farmworker health, social services and civic involvement, specifically in the areas of mental health, social services and recent immigrants in North County San Diego.

Her academic work reflects her personal struggles and experiences in grassroots organizations in San Diego and Los Angeles. In 1992, she co-founded the Coalition of Indigenous Communities of Oaxaca (COCIO), based in North County San Diego. In 2003 she became the first woman to be elected to the General Coordinator post in that organization. Lastly, in 2005 she was elected as a member of the Consultative Council of the Institute of Mexicans Abroad for the County of San Diego.

The Poder Popular Project, funded by The California Endowment, aims to improve the health, living, and working conditions of agricultural workers in San Diego County by engaging grassroots leadership, bringing promotores comunitarios to assist in the effort. For more information about the project, please contact the NLRC at (760) 750-3500 or nlrc@csusm.edu.

Please join us in welcoming Ale to the NLRC and the campus community.

Ale Ricardez can be contacted via phone at (760) 750-3508 or via email at ricardez@csusm.edu.

Ni Una Más Continued

The documentary concludes that the phenomenon shows a clear pattern of gender-based violence that continues to increase due to the authorities' failure to properly investigate the murders. The majority of the victims are poor women living in high-risk areas with little or no access to basic services such as running water, plumbing, streetlights or police protection. Thus, the most convincing explanation is that Mexican women continue to be murdered because they are poor and female living in communities where civil society is unable to exert its power against powerful political and economic oligarchies.

Ms. Sánchez called on civil society to speak on behalf of the defenseless women and to pressure the Mexican federal, state, and local governments to ensure that all instances of violence are thoroughly investigated and its perpetrators brought to justice, and steps are taken to address the causes of women's vulnerability to violence.

They are all our daughters! They are all our loss! We need to act now.



Audience at the Ni Una Más Event at CSUSM on Nov. 22, 2005

In Her Own Words

The following excerpt was taken from Alejandra Sánchez's speech:

"To speak about women who have been kidnapped, raped, tortured, and murdered in Ciudad Juárez and Chihuahua is to speak of one of the situations in Mexico that pains and embarrasses me the most for being part of the misery that we live in as human beings.



Alejandra Sánchez

Ten years have passed since women's bodies began to appear in Ciudad Juárez, at first found in isolated areas, but gradually in different urban zones in the city as well. Experts in women's studies have coined the term femicide to refer to the serial murders that are still committed in Ciudad Juárez.

From November 2004 to November 2005, there have been fifty bodies found in Ciudad Juárez and Chihuahua. Some of the victims were children under 10 years old with the same signs of torture and rape."

'Murders happen due to the fact that women are the victims.' Women's studies professors are completely right, it is the main ingredient. But the second theory also available is the economic condition of murdered women. In every single case, women have low socio-economic status, which may indicate that this phenomenon in Ciudad Juárez is composed of two roots: misogyny and classism.

I believe that behind all this there could be hints to determine who is committing these crimes. Behind misogyny there is a socio-cultural problem that has taken and will take many years of struggle. Behind classism there is, without doubt, also a complex socio-cultural, and political problem. However, what rules is the lack of support from authorities, which reporters may consider a form of protecting powerful people that have committed some of the crimes.

For additional information about the Mujeres of Juárez, go to:
<http://mujeresdejuarez.org>

NLRC is Awarded a Renewed Grant

The NLRC recently received a renewed three-year \$420,000 grant from The California Endowment for Community Action to Fight Asthma (CAFA).

Asthma is the most common chronic childhood disease affecting 4.8 million children nationwide and accounting for one-third of all pediatric emergency visits. It is widely recognized that environmental factors play a major role in asthma morbidity. In California, one in ten children suffer from asthma, affecting nearly 1.2 million children in the state and costing \$480 million a year in hospital stays alone.

Initially funded in 2002, CAFA is a network of asthma coalitions in California working to shape local, regional and state policies to reduce the indoor and outdoor environmental triggers of asthma for school-aged children.

The NLRC provides peer-to-peer technical assistance, regional training, policy development and advocacy programs strategies to CAFA grantees in Los Angeles, San Diego, Imperial, and Kern Counties as well as emerging non-CAFA asthma coalitions in San Bernardino, Riverside, and Orange Counties.

Recognizing that environmental factors play a major role in asthma attacks, CAFA grantees combine advocacy, outreach, education, and grassroots interventions across the state to 1) improve and maintain school indoor air and environmental quality, including reducing the impact of school buses idling while dropping off and picking up children; 2) reduce emissions from various sources of diesel exhaust, focusing on the particles and chemicals (toxic air contaminants) emitted by municipal vehicles, trucks, buses, trains, ships, and agricultural and construction equipment; and 3) improve housing and environmental conditions dealing with mold, cockroach infestation, chipped and peeling paint, and lead in homes.

For more information regarding the project please contact Arcela Núñez-Álvarez (760) 750-3503 or anunez@csusm.edu. For additional information about the asthma network, please visit: <http://www.calasthma.org>.

Farmworker Health at the Forefront

The Farm Worker CARE (Coordination, Advocacy, Research, Empowerment) Coalition was recently awarded a three-year, \$600,000 grant from The California Endowment for Poder Popular Project. The project will focus its efforts in three regions of North County: Oceanside/San Luis Rey, Fallbrook/Bonsall and Pala/Pauma Valley. The coalition's project will be coordinated by the NLRC and partner organizations, Vista Community Clinic and Community Housing Works.

The purpose of the project is to improve the health, living and working conditions of agricultural workers by strengthening and engaging grassroots leadership utilizing promotores comunitarios (community health promoters) in the North County region of San Diego County. The community organizers in each target area will work with farmworkers, their families and the community at large to create "Community Committees" that will engage farmworkers in creating a vision for their community by identifying their own strengths and the local community and institutional assets to improve the communities in which they live and work.

The coalition was selected along with eight other agricultural communities across California. In the words of Dr. Robert K. Ross, M.D., president and CEO of The California Endowment, "The time is right to bring together agricultural workers, community, health and civic leaders—with the single goal of improving the living, working and health conditions in farmworker communities. The Poder Popular Program marks a new beginning for these communities so crucial to California's economic and social health."

The expected outcomes of the project are:

- ◆ To form trained promotores comunitarios knowledgeable on community health advocacy strategies
- ◆ Increase awareness and understanding among residents on external social/cultural physical environmental factors that contribute to the health conditions of the population and their communities
- ◆ Increase knowledge of advocacy strategies by local grassroots leaders and residents of selected communities
- ◆ Increase collaboration among local agencies to support promotores comunitarios efforts and improving community health.

For more information please contact Ale Ricardez at (760)750-3508 or ricardez@csusm.edu; Dr. Konane Martinez at (760) 750-3505 or kmartine@csusm.edu.

NLRC Latino Conversations Series

Through its collaborations with Arts & Lectures at CSUSM, Context: Library Series, MEChA, local organizations, universities and community colleges, the NLRC continues to host intellectual and research-based events and forums aimed at raising awareness about issues affecting Latino populations regionally and nationwide.

Mujeres Zapatistas



March 23, 2006 at 6:00 PM in KEL Library 4400
In commemoration of women's history month, the NLRC will host a panel presentation to discuss the struggle of Indigenous women for human rights. Panelists will share their experiences working in Zapatista communities in Chiapas, Mexico. In 1993, Comandanta Ramona extensively consulted indigenous Zapatista communities about the exploitation of women and subsequently penned the Revolutionary Laws of Women. In memory of Comandanta Ramona (1959-2006).

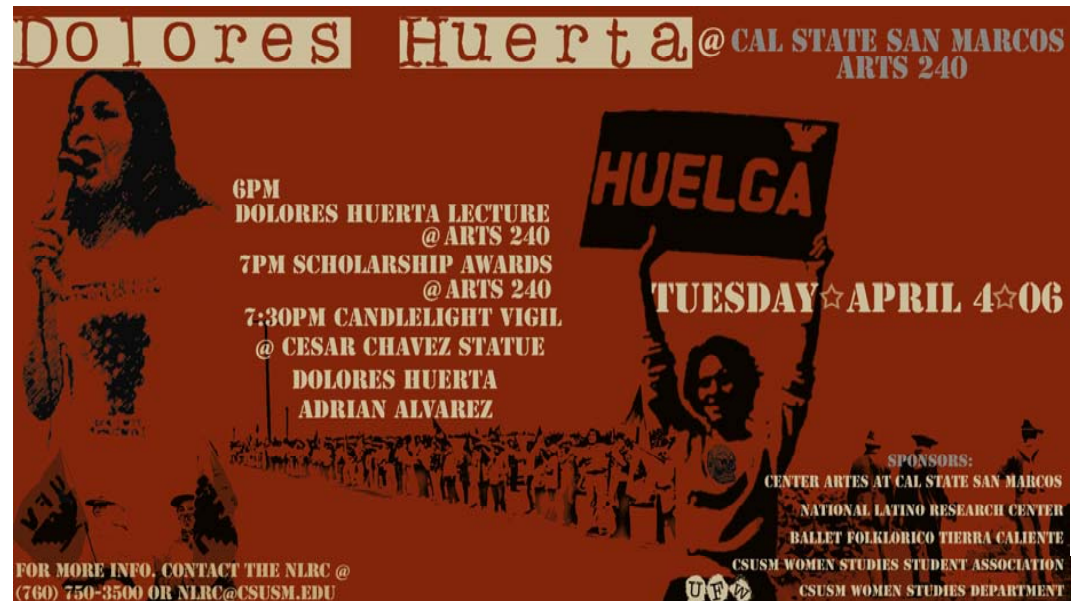
Los Bilingual Writers

April 21 at 2 PM in COM 206
The goals of the Bilingual Writers are to acknowledge literary expression in two languages and to validate the power of bilingual writing, as well as representing the joy and pride of their written work. The group was founded by Irene A. Márquez, motivated by the lack of representation of Latinos in literature. The Bilingual Writers workshop is open to people who wish to begin writing or with certain literary experience. Age and gender is open, the group meets on Wednesdays in the Media Arts Center San Diego. For more information call (619) 384-7144 or write to losbilingualwriters@cox.net

Dolores Huerta



April 4, 2005 at 6:00 PM in Arts 240
Dolores Huerta is one of the most prominent figures of the Farmworker Labor Movement in the United States. Her activist work on behalf of agricultural workers has been instrumental in the development and implementation of legislation such as removing citizenship requirements from pensions and public assistance programs, allowing voters the right to vote in Spanish, Aid for Dependent Families, and the Immigration Reform Act of 1985.



Dolores Huerta @ CAL STATE SAN MARCOS ARTS 240

**6PM
DOLORES HUERTA LECTURE
@ ARTS 240**

**7PM SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS
@ ARTS 240**

**7:30PM CANDLELIGHT VIGIL
@ CESAR CHAVEZ STATUE
DOLORES HUERTA
ADRIAN ALVAREZ**

TUESDAY ☆ APRIL 4 ☆ 06

HUELGA

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**FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT THE NLRC @
(760) 750-3500 OR NLRC@CSUSM.EDU**

Community Events

◆ 13th Annual San Diego Latino Film Festival

Media Arts Center San Diego's internationally recognized San Diego Latino Film Festival, soared into its' 13th year with impressive and exhilarating activities, special events and initiatives. Taking place March 9 – 19 at Ultra Star's Mission Valley Cinemas at Hazard Center, the festival featured more than 100 film screenings celebrating the best in Latino cinema from around the world. For more information, go to: www.sdlatinofilm.com.



◆ El Ojo Fino: The Exquisite Eye

Organized by the Wittliff Gallery of Southwestern & Mexican Photography at Southwest Texas University in San Marcos, Texas, this exhibition features the works of nine great women photographers of Mexico. The exhibit, from February 5 through April 2, 2006, is free and open to the public. For additional information contact William D. Cannon Art Gallery at the Carlsbad Library at (760) 602-2021, or kmcgu@ci.carlsbad.ca.us.

◆ César Chávez: His Soul and His Spirit - by Victor Aleman

In celebration of the life and legacy of Cesar Chavez, founder of the United Farm Workers of America, the Boehm Gallery at Palomar College presents a unique exhibit from March 15 – April 15, 2006. The gallery is free and open to the public. For additional information visit: www.palomar.edu/art/boehmgallery.html.

◆ 2006 Summer Institute for Latino Public Policy (SILPP)

Students are invited to participate in the upcoming LLOP 2006 Summer Institute for Latino Public Policy (SILPP) which will take place on June 18-25, 2006 at George Washington University and the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC. The 2006 program application form and description are available at www.nd.edu/~iuplr/ or at nlrc@csusm.edu.

◆ 14th Annual Adelante Mujer Conference

This conference will be held on Saturday, March 25, 2006 from 7:30 am to 3:30 pm at Cal State San Marcos. The conference, in its 14th year in North County, is sponsored by the North County Latinas Association and the College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP), an all-volunteer group of professional women. Latinas in sixth through 12th grades, as well as many mothers, learn about career opportunities at the all-day event. For more information, contact Minerva Gonzalez at (760) 750-8531 or minervag@csusm.edu.

◆ Asthma, Housing, and Environmental Justice Meeting

The National Latino Research Center will be hosting a Southern California Regional Meeting to discuss Asthma, Housing, and Environmental Justice. The convening will take place on Saturday, April 8, 2006 from 10 am - 2 pm at the M. Gordon Clarke Field House Grand Salon (CSUSM). The goal of this convening is to bring together community groups working on asthma and housing in Southern California to discuss the following: Strategies, activities & policies that have been pursued around housing and tenant rights issues; strategies, activities & policies that have been pursued around environmental triggers in the home; consequences for tenants who complain about housing violations; strategies for reducing triggers in home environment & "healthy homes" campaign; and role of promotoras in healthy homes projects. For more information, please contact Arcela Núñez-Álvarez at anunez@csusm.edu.

◆ Mexico Solidarity Network Study Abroad Program

The Mexico Solidarity Network Study Abroad program is a 14-week, inter-disciplinary program focusing on the context, strategy and tactics of Mexican social movements. The 16-credit program is open to college students and activists and is accredited at the masters level (and applicable to most US undergraduate or masters programs) by the Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana - Xochimilco, one of Mexico's most prestigious universities. For more information, visit the Mexico Solidarity Network website: www.mexicosolidarity.org/Study%20Abroad/ or send an email to MSN@MexicoSolidarity.org.

