2012

College of Ethnic Studies SF State
43rd Anniversary Celebration
Yoshi’s Restaurant, San Francisco
October 7, 2012
Dear Ethnic Studies Family

As we enter our 43rd year, the College of Ethnic Studies continues to serve in a time that needs us more than ever. There have been those who have opposed the existence of the field of Ethnic Studies since its inception. The public attacks nationally have grown quite virulent recently, most notably in the state of Arizona where there is an ongoing attempt to outlaw Ethnic Studies. This is no less than a modern day case of book burning; yet, there is silence from most quarters of higher education outside of Ethnic Studies.

Simultaneously, a reactionary movement has grown in California and nationally to defund public education. This is occurring just as public higher education was beginning to achieve the promise of the California Master plan which assured access to higher education for all who worked to qualify, opening opportunity to the poor, working class and people of color who had been previously excluded. There is nothing coincidental about the twin attacks on Ethnic Studies and public higher education more generally.

In 1968, the visionary collective of students, staff, and faculty and community members led by the Black Student Union and Third World Liberation Front were leaders in a movement that opened higher education to a broader range of society. They made a set of demands that would 1) provide greater access to higher education for students, staff, and faculty; 2) a supportive academic support system; and, 3) an academic canon that included the intellectual traditions of all peoples.

The strikers of ’68 demanded a relevant education, one that asked the questions, served the needs, and enabled the aspirations of our communities. They understood that the struggle would need to be sustained and that it would attract the backlash we see today. Thus, they anticipated what we must reaffirm today. We must continue the struggle for fully accessible, relevant education until it is a reality.

Today we honor individuals who exemplify the best in linking the goals of higher education with the advancement of our communities. I invite you to join us in celebrating San Francisco State University’s 13th President, Dr. Leslie Wong, and the 2013 Exemplary Leadership Award Recipients, all leaders in keeping public education fully accessible and relevant to the needs of the people.

With warmest family regards, I remain in your service.

Kenneth P. Monteiro, Dean
Leslie E. Wong was appointed as the 13th president of San Francisco State University effective August 1, 2012. Previously, he served nine years as president of Northern Michigan University in Marquette, Michigan.

Dr. Wong is actively committed to student success and to fostering an institutional environment that is adaptable to the needs of 21st century students. He encourages students at San Francisco State University to “own their own minds” by developing their ability to independently evaluate information in an increasingly partisan world. As the leader of a campus that is deeply invested in its community, Dr. Wong invites students to find their voices, but he cautions that being remembered is more important than being heard. As president, he leads a talented group of faculty and staff committed to social justice, equity and making public higher education an essential asset to our collective future.

Academic Experience
- San Francisco State University. President, August 1, 2012 - present
- Northern Michigan University. President, 2004-2012
- Valley City State University in North Dakota. Vice president for academic affairs, 1999-2004
- University of Southern Colorado, Pueblo. Provost and academic vice president, 1996-1999; interim president, January 1 to June 30, 1997

Education
- Ph.D. Educational Psychology, Washington State University.
- M.S. Experimental Psychology, Eastern Washington University.
- B.A. Psychology, Gonzaga University (Spokane, Wash.).
STUDENT HONOREES

Tachelle Ilisha Herron-Lane

Denia Perez

Khay Hembrador

CS Gomora

Jocelyn Polanco
Amy Sueyoshi is Associate Dean of the College of Ethnic Studies. She holds a B.A. in history from Barnard College and Ph.D. in history from University of California at Los Angeles. She is the author of Queer Compulsions: Race, Nation, and Sexuality in the Affairs of Yone Noguchi and has published on topics such as cross-dressing, same-sex marriage, romantic friendship, and pornography in journals such as Frontiers, Amerasia, and Journal of American Ethnic History. She has been invited to lecture on race, sexuality, and social justice in national and regional conferences in both Japan and the United States. Previous to academia, she served as a U.S. Peace Corps volunteer and worked as a grassroots organizer for Asian Americans for Equality in New York City.

Roberto Rivera is Professor Emeritus in Latina/o Studies at San Francisco State University. He earned his B.A. in philosophy from the University of San Francisco and his Ph.D. in comparative humanities from the University of California at Santa Cruz. Dr. Rivera has been teaching at San Francisco State University, since the Third World Strike created the College of Ethnic Studies. He developed and taught the department’s philosophy courses but now that he has retired, we are lucky to occasionally coax him back onto campus to teach his highly sought-after courses on Aztec Philosophy and Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz developed in conjunction with the Spanish Department.
KPOO and SFSU Contributor
The Africana Studies Adwardee Mr. Terry Collins is honored for his many contributions to the community, but specifically now for his role at KPOO, a community radio, and his contributions to his alma mater San Francisco State University, specifically the College of Ethnic Studies.

Born in Lancing, Michigan, raised in Indiana and LA. Terry transferred from LA City College to San Francisco State College in 1967, and graduated in 1969 with a degree in “Social Sciences in Interdisciplinary Studies”.

In the years between he was drafted and upon being discharged spent three years hitch hiking throughout Europe and Africa.

Terry matriculated from his college days as SFSU where he was a member of the BSU, to continued community activism. He was with the Fillmore Media Center on Sutter Street when in 1973 he joined the efforts to put KPOO on the air, whose mission is “Airwaves Belong to the People.” Says Terry, “The late Joe Rudolph and I wanted to have people on who had never had a program.” This included communities of diverse backgrounds, and foremost women and men of color. Terry’s program “The Spirit of Joe Rudolph” airs Tuesdays 10 PM to midnight.

Terry Collins also contributes to the College of Ethnic Studies. He is regularly seen on campus supporting the college’s archival work, along with Professors Dawn-Elisa Fischer (Africana Studies), Daniel Gonzales (Asian American Studies) and Jason Ferreira (Race and Resistance Studies) in the Power to the People Archive class. We benefit enormously from Terry’s involvement.
Dr. Ben Kobashigawa

Dr. Ben Kobashigawa has been teaching in Asian American Studies (AAS) since 1986. Teaching and research at SF State was the culmination of an intellectual and political trajectory from antiwar activism to radical political economy and ethnic studies. His major contributions were in the MA program in AAS, and taking a leading role in the College of Ethnic Studies Assembly that met 2005-6 to resolve tensions within the college.

Dr. Kobashigawa received his PhD in Sociology from the University of Edinburgh in Scotland and an MA in Economics from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan. He is the translator and editor of two books, the Hokubei Okinawa Club’s History of the Okinawans in North America, published by the Asian American Studies Center at UCLA and Imin no Aiwa (The Sad Tale of an Immigrant), a life story of Paul Shinsei Kochi, a leftist issei leader in the Okinawan community. He is a recognized scholar on Okinawan immigrant history in Okinawa and the U.S., along with other published research on Japanese and Asian American subjects.

Dr. Kobashigawa has been continuously active in the community. He serves as board president of the Japanese American National Library (JANL), one of the few successful community-based ethnic libraries in the country. He is also on the Program Advisory Board of the JANL, which regularly provides community education programs on topics of interest to the Japanese American community. He has long been an active member of the Okinawan community in both Northern and Southern California.
EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS

Raúl Alcaraz Ochoa

Born in Jalisco, México 29 years ago to two loving parents, Raúl Alcaraz Ochoa believes in the power of community organizing. He grew up in Richmond, CA where his struggles as a migrant child fuel his passion for social justice and community power. Raúl has organized around educational justice, youth power, queer justice and migrant rights issues. After graduating from the Raza Studies Dept in the College of Ethnic Studies at SFSU in 2006, Raúl moved to the desert/borderlands of Tucson, AZ to continue organizing around community and migrant justice. Raúl has organized with Youth Together, Making Changes Freedom School, UNIDOS, Corazón de Tucson, the Southside Worker Center and the National Day Labor Organizing Network. Evident in his work, Raúl imagines a world free of borders and oppression and continuously struggles towards creating a world where many worlds fit.

Dr. Jacob E. Perea

Dr. Jacob E. Perea has served San Francisco State University for 37 years with determination and distinction. Having received a B.S. from New Mexico State University, M.A. from San Francisco State University, and ED.D from the University of California at Berkeley, his roles have included faculty and Chair for the Departments of Administration and Interdisciplinary Studies and Acting Chair for the Departments of American Indian Studies and La Raza Studies. These roles led to his recently retired position as the first American Indian (Mescalero Apache) Dean of the Graduate College of Education. Dr. Jacob E. Perea’s commitment to social justice through education can be seen overtime in his development of Bilingual Teacher Training at SF State University, co-founding of the “Step to College Program” (a collaborative project with the San Francisco Unified School District, to provide access for under-represented groups in higher education), the joint tenure-track hiring program between the Graduate College of Education and the College of Ethnic Studies, the implementation of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) at San Francisco State University, and the development of a rigorous cross-cultural teaching training program in China, which emphasizes language development and competency between English and Mandarin. A recipient of the “Global Educator Award” by World Savvy for his outstanding commitment to global education, citizenship, and youth in California, Dr. Jacob E. Perea leaves behinds a legacy of self-determination that reminds us how education can make social justice a reality.
Eric Quezada (1965-2011)

Born in Los Angeles, Eric Quezada moved to San Francisco in 1971 where his Guatemalan immigrant parents opened a bike shop in the city’s politically and culturally vibrant Mission District. He graduated from Chico State with a degree in Latin American Studies. Ever the organizer, Quezada spearheaded solidarity efforts in support of the UNRG in Guatemala, FMLN in El Salvador, and the Sandinistas of Nicaragua. Returning to his barrio after graduation, Quezada immersed himself in struggles for social justice, both in the city he loved and the wider world, becoming over the next twenty years both a well-respected community organizer and a visionary leader of the Bay Area Left.

Quezada tirelessly fought on behalf of oppressed and exploited communities, never failing to make the important connections between struggles as diverse as those centered around homelessness, immigration, education, environmental justice, labor, civil rights, and the LGBT community. He founded Mexicanos Sin Fronteras during the anti-immigrant hysteria of the 90s and, more recently, the San Francisco Immigrant Legal and Education Network. He founded the Mission Anti-Displacement Coalition in the midst of the dot-com craze. Later, he organized local residents to create a community-driven development proposal known as the “People’s Plan.” He served on the Board of Directors of the Bernal Neighborhood Center and of the grassroots environmental justice organization PODER. He was instrumental in pushing a progressive electoral agenda, running for Supervisor of District 9 in 2008.

Up until his passing, Quezada served as Executive Director of Dolores Street Community Services providing housing and sanctuary to immigrants and the working poor. Yet, while Quezada’s focus remained on organizing local communities, he consistently connected it to progressive struggles worldwide. He organized with the Venceremos Brigade, the Venezuela Solidarity Group, and Grassroots Global Justice.

Longtime activist Ana Perez states, “Few people have such a deep relationship with people in our community, the clarity of revolutionary politics, the energy, the unstoppable work ethic and the courage to say the truth and take on anyone who needs to be challenged in defense of community.”
Dr. J.E. Penny Saffold has served as Dean of Students since 1984 and Vice President for Student Affairs since June 1994 at San Francisco State University. In her over 34 years of experience as a Student Affairs administrator, she has always held close to her core promoting the education and leadership development of all students, including particular attention to insure that students who were traditionally excluded for reasons of race, gender, sexual identity, disability or any other reason were now included. Dr. Saffold earned her Ph.D. from St. Louis University.

As Vice President, Dr. Saffold oversaw the safety, student activities, counseling and psychological services, accommodations, access and retention, and general academic life of about 30,000 students a year. Of those, thousands of students have benefitted directly from her mentorship and guidance, and credit her personal intervention as critical to their academic and career success. Because of her success in student affairs she is called upon internationally to speak on student development, retention and leadership in diverse student bodies. She was honored with the American Association of Higher Education Black Caucus Public Service Award and the Golden Gate Section of the National Council of Negro Women, Inc.’s Educator of the Year Award.

In addition, she is a leader in the local and national faith-based community. She was ordained in 1999, and is the Founding Minister of the Pyramid Center of Truth, Inc. (UFBL), an affiliate of the Universal Foundation for Better Living, Inc, founded by the renowned Rev. Dr. Johnnie Colemon. She also serves on the Board of Directors of the UFBL as the Second Vice President and Chair of the Education Sub-Committee.
In Memory of
Participants in the BSU/TWLF Strike of 1968
and College of Ethnic Studies*

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*This list is unlikely to be comprehensive. It includes only those names submitted to date. Please inform us of others to be included in future commemorations.
We gratefully thank all of our donors, in-kind partners and friends.

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We are proud to announce the launch of a James Akira Hirabayashi Scholarship Person for All Seasons Scholarship Fund and to present our founding donors. James Akira Hirabayashi, now retired and living in the Bay Area, was the first Dean of the then School of Ethnic Studies. Alumna Juanita Tamayo Lott was one of the first employees of the new College, and she is the first donor to the Hirabayashi Scholarship Fund.

Because of Dr. Hirabayashi’s commitment to both public service and the interdisciplinary grounding of Ethnic Studies, the James Akira Hirabayashi Person for All Seasons Scholarship Fund has been created to support students who integrate dynamic service to their communities with an interdisciplinary approach to their studies. The Scholarship is open to juniors and seniors majoring or minoring in any of the Ethnic Studies disciplines. The first two scholarships of $1,000 will be awarded in the Spring of 2012.

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† (To honor Kathy King, our children’s first principal at Claire Lilienthal Elementary School)
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This research study is reflective of collaboration between the Wise Wishes Institute and the College of Ethnic Studies to examine the impact of positive life strategies. Dr. Cherie Safapou is heading Wise Wishes Institute and implementing seminars. To learn more visit: http://www.wisewishes.net or contact: Dr. Cherie Safapou, 415-686-3807(Email: safapou@sfsu.edu).
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October 7, 2012
Thank You!

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Lawrence Beamen - Soloist
Kontra/Banned with Ben Luis, Chris Planas, Sandi Poindexter and Matt Willis

C. Dee Ka'alā Carmack –Piano/Vocalist

Photographer
Luigino De Grandis

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