

PROFILES IN ENGAGEMENT

SERVICE LEARNING/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Bracero Oral History Project

Faculty: Jose Alamillo, Frank Barajas, Terry Ballman, Antonio Jimenez-Jimenez, Luke Matjas, and Evelyn Taylor

The Bracero Oral History Project, an initiative of the Centers for Community Engagement and Multicultural Engagement, is a grass-roots effort in collaboration with the Smithsonian National Museum of American History, to collect, document, exhibit, and share a complex and sometimes controversial history of the Bracero Program (1942-1964). The Bracero Program brought approximately 3 million individual Mexican workers into the United States. It is the largest guest-worker program in U.S. history, and it affected the business of farming, immigration patterns and organized labor.

In 2008-2009 this oral history project served as a service learning component for Chicana/o Studies, History, Library, and Spanish programs. Students organized and promoted town hall meetings to recruit former Braceros to interview, conducted oral history interviews, and translated/transcribed the interviews.

To date two town hall meetings have been conducted, over 60 former Braceros, their wives, children and others who had interactions with the Bracero Program, have signed up to share their stories. Over 35 oral histories have been collected by CI students and local artifacts of this time period and program have been retrieved.

In spring 2010, these interviews and artifacts will be used to create a Ventura County local Bracero exhibit by Art and Chicano Studies Capstone students and will be unveiled in fall 2010, along with the Smithsonian's national traveling exhibit, *Bittersweet Harvest: The Bracero Program, 1942-1964*.

CrossRoads Tutoring Program

Faculty: Beth Hartung and Sunghee Choi

The mortgage/foreclosure crisis has contributed to the increase in homeless families in Ventura County. Many families have found themselves homeless and the resulting impact on their children's education is vast. The capacity to learn when a child's family has lost their home is difficult.

In fall 2009, thirty service learning students, from Sociology Capstone 499 and Sociology 201, worked with School on Wheels, a non-profit organization that provides tutors for homeless children. Students provided academic and tutoring support to homeless children throughout Ventura County. Together, students served a total of 275 hours in

12 cities and in two counties (Santa Barbara and Ventura). In addition, 12 students have expressed interest in continuing to tutor with School on Wheels.

Art 499: Capstone

Faculty: Matt Furmanski

Art has been shown to positively impact children's academic achievement, attitudes and behaviors, and self-concept. Yet schools are finding less time for this form of creative expression. Armed with this information Art Capstone students decided to involve their art interests and skills in a meaningful way by offering art classes to children that may not necessarily have the exposure in school.

Working with Cabrillo Economic Development (CEDC), a nonprofit that provides housing for low and very low income families, the Capstone students brought art classes to the children of Meta Street and Villa Victoria housing communities in Oxnard, two of 13 managed by CEDC. The art class drew on the students' expertise and strengths.

Each week for 1.5 hours children, ranging in age from two years and up, gathered in the community room to work with clay, watercolors, and, photography and learn about art history, visual language and aesthetics. By the end of the semester these children had received over 20 hours of art instruction from CI students.

Business/Biology 493: Service Learning At The Zoo

Faculty: Dennis Muraoka and Alex McNeill

Students assisted with the Santa Barbara Zoo's outreach efforts in Ventura County by gathering, organizing and presenting information about the cities in the western part of the county. Students collected data about the cities and used this data to prepare community profiles. Students presented their findings at a luncheon held at the Santa Barbara Zoo to Rich Block, Zoo Director and CEO, and Dean Noble, Marketing Director of the Santa Barbara Zoo.

Business/Sociology 336: Social Entrepreneurship

Faculty: Dennis Downey and Andrew Morris

Students developed a creative proposal to address a social problem or provide some social benefit that they were personally interested in. Student groups researched a societal problem that matters to them; and developed a design for some sort of organized and sustainable (i.e. income generating) way to address that issue. Those projects were presented in the form of a written proposal as well as an in-class oral presentation. In addition to the proposal, students were required to carry out some form of service learning related to their proposal.

One group, Backpacks for Hope, worked directly with Casa Pacifica, a community partner adjacent to the campus. Casa Pacifica serves over 400 children and youth in Ventura County through residential and non-residential programs. Casa Pacifica children

were in need of backpacks and school supplies for the upcoming school year. The student members of Backpacks for Hope solicited \$1000 in donations from friends, family, and companies/corporations and used the money to buy backpacks and school supplies. Students delivered 200 plus backpacks and supplies to Casa Pacifica children in December 2009.

Communication 101

Faculty: Greg Sawyer

This course, known as COMM-Unity, provides 6th-8th grade students in Ventura County with the opportunity to engage in a 30-minute classroom presentation about 'How to Get to College', followed by a 20-minute CI college student panel. The unique aspect of this program is that each presentation is delivered by a team of CI students as their final project for their Communication 101 course.

The topics covered in the presentation include: the A-G college entrance requirements, the four systems of higher education in California, SAT and ACT college entrance exams and the FAFSA including different types of financial aid. Outreach presentations are conducted twice annually during the regular academic year.

During 08-09 approximately 845 students were served in 6 different middle schools across Ventura County. Most of the middle schools, in which this program is conducted, are high-risk with the majority of students on free and/or reduced lunch programs.

Communication 441: Health Communications

Faculty: Vivian Henchy

Communication students worked with non-profit organizations to create, develop, implement, and evaluate a public health campaign. Community engagement/service learning projects included:

Westminster Free Clinic: students implemented a health communication campaign, using two channels of communication, to recruit additional health practitioners (specifically, MDs and PharmDs) to offer volunteer hours in treating patients. Currently, many seeking medical care are being turned away because of inadequate numbers of practitioners to treat. The students conducted interpersonal "cold calling" by talking with prospective health practitioners face-to-face in various medical facilities and local hospitals. They also created and distributed a flyer for hanging in medical offices/break rooms, which they also handed out personally to practitioners during face-to-face interaction.

Ventura County Rainbow Alliance: a student implemented a multi-faceted health communication campaign to address the Rapid HIV Testing program in place with the Rainbow Alliance. The program offers a support system for results dissemination and in-person counseling following a test. The student utilized a social media format (created an online group in Facebook and sent invitations), and created a flyer that was

distributed widely within the community at specific, targeted locations for long periods of posting.

Ventura County Public Health Department: a student researched and created a highly professional flyer to educate about the obesity/diabetes issues within the Hispanic community. The student prepared a bi-lingual, culturally appropriate, print-ready flyer to be used by the county to kick off the campaign. The student also created a calendar of educational classes that she had hoped to have printed in Siglo-21 (local Spanish newspaper) as a PSA.

Communication 443: Environmental Communication

Faculty: Tracylee Clarke

Working in conjunction with National Park Service Staff (NPS), students saw firsthand the benefits of community engagement while establishing a relationship with NPS public servants. Students engaged in a variety of activities including beach clean up and trail restoration and had the opportunity to learn about human impact on the environment and ways to mitigate degradation through civic engagement and responsible action.

Students participated in an interpretive hike/discussion co-led by a Ranger and a Park Interpretive Specialist Araceli Dominquez (CI graduate of the ESRM program!). The discussion focused on the place and responsibility of humans in the greater eco-system and the importance of involvement in environmental advocacy and civic engagement.

Communication 499: Capstone

Faculty: Tracylee Clarke

Students used their communication skills to lead a nonprofit organization in a community engagement/service learning project. Students journaled about their experience and at the conclusion of the course wrote a summary paper. Community engagement/service learning projects included:

Cabrillo Economic Development: a student planned, promoted, and implemented the 805 Youth Exchange, an event consisting of all day workshops for Ventura County youth. The workshops focused on providing information about how to get to college and financial literacy. Youth were also treated to music/art/acting workshops.

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church: a student led a sale to benefit artisans in 23 third world countries. The sale featured hand made artisan items ranging from jewelry to Christmas ornaments and more. All sale proceeds went back to the person responsible for the work. The student promoted and marketed the sale using various methods, including social media.

Ventura County Self-Help Legal Access: a student assisted the growing number of self-represented litigants (parties to a lawsuit) in the court on family law cases. The student served families by providing informational assistance and helping them navigate the court system.

Education 101: Introduction to Elementary Education**Faculty: Bob Bleicher, Marilyn Buchanan and Manuel Correia**

For the past 8 years, CI has partnered with the Ocean View School District to place students in elementary classrooms for a full-immersion service-learning experience. Multiple sections of the course are conducted at two elementary schools with large populations of English Learners and free lunch recipients. Per semester, the program involves approximately 600 elementary school children, 40 CI students and 20 classroom teachers.

In participating classrooms, the teacher and two CI students form a team. The CI students provide tutoring and Big Sister/Big Brother guidance one morning each week for three hours over a 13-week period. Immediately following the classroom experience, CI students meet with their professor at the site for an hour to reflect on their service-learning experiences.

The aim of the experience is for CI students to learn to serve and serve to learn. In providing learning assistance to potentially at-risk learners and support to classroom teachers, CI students have the opportunity to decide if they have the professional disposition for teaching.

English 212: Children's Literature**Faculty: Claudia Reder**

Students worked with 4th-6th graders at University Preparation School (UPS), a public charter school in Camarillo, to write poems together during after-school homework club time. Art activities designed by CI students, using paint and clay, were utilized to help inspire UPS students to write their poems. Painting and working with clay helps connect the young student to their feelings. That connection then helps them find the words for their poems. This process enables both CI students and UPS students to experience creative writing and find the joys of language.

Education 445: Chicano Child and Adolescent**Faculty: Kathleen Contreras**

Students created an after school homework support program tutoring in the afternoons at Cabrillo Economic Development housing community, Villa Cesar Chavez, a community that is home to farm worker families. Tutoring emphasis is placed on writing and math skills. Students also participated in the Cesar Chavez Day celebration honoring his legacy of service by hosting a "College Night" for all the parents of Villa Cesar Chavez and providing an informative Spanish presentation on "How to Prepare Your Child for College."

Environmental Science Resource Management 351: Field Methods

Faculty: Sean Anderson and Chris Cogan

Students assisted Channel Islands National Park Service (NPS) biologists to collect soil samples for salinity, pH, and seed bank analysis, use GIS to map iceplant and shrub distribution, collect age and size information for a population of native shrubs, and volunteer some physical labor by establishing cover boards and location stakes for vertebrate monitoring. This phase of the project was in December 2009, and the NPS plans to continue removing iceplant in a systematic method based on these data until iceplant is eradicated. Several senior ESRM students may also incorporate portions of the data collection and restoration project as part of their senior research requirements.

Environmental Science Resource Management 463: Water Resource Management

Faculty: Don Rodriguez

Students contributed to a water quality monitoring projects on the Revolon Slough within the Calleguas Creek watershed. The watershed ranks as one of the most impaired in the state of California. Students worked in teams to learn about regional water issues, and collect and monitor water samples from this watershed which had never been done before. Water samples were analyzed and used to inform a final report sent to the Hansen Trust.

Environmental Science and Resource Management 492: Service Learning in New Orleans

Faculty: Sean Anderson

For the past four years, students from ESRM 492 have participated in an intensive service learning course in and around New Orleans, Louisiana where they are immersed in the history, culture, politics, and environment of the Gulf Coast. Following weeks of preparatory lectures, readings, and training, students travel to southern Louisiana for nearly two weeks over an expanded Spring Break to assist with the on-going recovery.

Students divided most of their time between restoring degraded wetlands and rebuilding homes/community centers. The recovery was so nascent when this course began that service initially focused on unskilled demolition and related activities. Now the students provide much more focused and more in-demand skilled services; they are now experts in controlling wetland-threatening invasive plants and have transitioned into planning, designing, and installing community gardens for neighborhoods most impacted by the devastation.

Gender Studies 433: Gay/ Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender

Faculty: Julia Balen

In this introduction to lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer, intersexed, and transgendered lives students in spring 2007 gathered oral histories from LGBTIQ peoples who had lived in Ventura County for at least five years. The following year students used the stories to develop questions that they would like to ask the interviewees. Interviewees were invited to the classroom to meet with students and answer questions in small groups.

The goal of the project is to edit all of the materials into a publishable format for use by Ventura County Rainbow Alliance.

Management 492: Service Learning/Internship

Faculty: Rudy Estrada

Students participated in hands-on learning experience by conducting field case studies and providing consulting services to local small business owners. Students assisted businesses in the planning and marketing efforts needed not only to survive, expand, and diversify, but also to obtain additional funding for their business operations.

Organic Chemistry 311: Organic Chemistry I

Faculty: Phil Hampton

The rapid urbanization of Ventura County has resulted in new communities being constructed adjacent to agricultural areas. Students in this chemistry class investigated whether communities adjacent to agricultural areas utilizing chemicals, to control weeds and pests experience the problem of pesticide drift. Students used an air “sniffer” to analysis air in and around the Ventura College and CI campuses to determine whether and what kinds of chemicals can be detected in the air. Students were able to interact in person and remotely through CI visualization software. They presented their findings to their community partners, Pesticide Action Network of North America (PANNA) and Community & Children's Advocates Against Pesticide Poisoning (CCAAPP), and prepared information about the dangers of methyl iodide to share with citizens and the California EPA.

Physics 106: Applied Physics in Modern Society

Faculty: Brian Rasnow

Pearl millet is a staple grain of millions of poor subsistence farmers in sub-Saharan Africa and India. There are basically 2 ways to thresh this hardy grain: beat it with a stick, or use a \$500,000 combine tractor (which is obviously unsuitable for the typical 1/2 acre plots of poor farmers). In summer 2008 I participated in the International Design and Development Summit (IDDS) at MIT and our group adopted this project -- to find an intermediate scale solution to thresh pearl millet, so African women don't have to spend 4 hours a day preparing food for their families.

By studying the physical and mechanical properties of millet and applying science and technology to a problem that had been largely ignored by scientists and engineers, we discovered how a bicycle wheel can thresh millet 10 times faster than a stick. With my students at CI, we made a couple of design improvements and did high-speed video experiments leading to a theory of how and why the thresher works. The current state of the project is that two members of the IDDS group are leading field trials in Mali and Ghana. A few other people have studied our website and are exploring the concepts, in

India and elsewhere in Africa. A picture of the MIT thresher will also be on display at the Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Psychology 490: Positive Psychology

Faculty: Christy Teranishi

In Spring 2009, 12 students enrolled in Psychology 490 Positive Psychology, a research-based course focused on a comparative study of athletes, artists and academicians experiences of *flow*, the mental state of being fully immersed, focused and involved in an activity. This course continued as a summer study abroad program called, *Positive Psychology: A Mind, Body, and Spiritual Journey through Peru*. In this Peru study abroad program, six CSUCI students and three community members had an opportunity to connect on a deeper level to the indigenous culture and authentic spirituality of the Quechua people, while enhancing their own mind, body and spirituality. Participants documented their experiences of *flow* through their daily journal reflections. In the Peru study abroad program, students participated in activities that supported community engagement with *direct service* (i.e., donating food and school supplies to indigenous Andean school children) and *indirect service* (i.e., learning about the needs of the Peruvian community and the ways our community can learn from their cultural practices and values). Through a collaborative research project, faculty and students participated in civic engagement to create awareness of the importance of positive psychology within our university and our community to enhance optimal life experiences.

Sociology 202: Introduction to Research Methods

Faculty: Dennis Downey

The Camarillo Certified Farmers Market Patron Survey developed as a university-community partnership between the Camarillo Hospice and students and faculty in the Sociology program. As market sponsors, Camarillo Hospice administrators were interested in learning more about the needs of patrons and how well they are serving those needs. Specifically, the survey was conducted in order to learn about social research through first-hand experience. Students participated in all aspects of the project, from initial questionnaire design, to survey administration, data entry, and basic analyses. Students' goals were to document patron characteristics, patterns of satisfaction, motivations for shopping at the market, and a range of other information. The data will assist Camarillo Hospice to better serve the community by identifying desired products and services, and by gauging community awareness of hospice services. Survey results were presented to the Camarillo Hospice Advisory Board and the campus community.

Sociology/English 332: Narratives of the Working Class**Faculty: Renny Christopher and Beth Hartung****Sociology/English 331: Narratives of the Working Class****Faculty: Renny Christopher and Beth Hartung**

Students carried out ethnographic interviewing of individuals who recently moved into farm worker and affordable housing units supported by Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation. Students studied a selection of narratives about the working poor and working class to better understand the diverse perspectives and issues that impact persons engaged in the economic struggle, such as housing affordability and livable wage.

Sociology 499: Capstone**Faculty: Beth Hartung and Daniel Lee**

Students provided service in the form of research to local community based organizations. Students worked on several community issue/needs such as housing, health and welfare, and education. In the spring of 2009, students presented their research in an undergraduate conference organized by Sociology: Ventura County at Risk: Identifying Problems, Venturing Solutions. In the spring and fall of 2009, students collected and analyzed data around various issues for: The American Cancer Society, Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation, Camarillo Hospice, City Corps, Coastal Alliance for a United and Sustainable Economy, FOOD Share, Habitat for Humanity, Project Understanding, School on Wheels, United Way of Ventura County, and Ventura County Homelessness and Housing Coalition. Data collected for local agencies informed county reports, program planning, and grant writing proposals. In calendar year 2009, 70 Capstone students contributed about 1500 hours of research and service.

University 392: Mexican Mangroves and Wildlife Experience/Service Learning**Faculty: Brad Monsma and Don Rodriguez**

Students traveled to a field research station based in La Manzanilla, Mexico to learn about issues facing Mexican conservation. Due to the rise in tourism, La Manzanilla, a small fishing community, has begun to experience the ecological and economic impacts that come with being "discovered." This "discovery" has caused environmental changes to the surrounding area that includes habitat encroachment, threatened mangrove systems, and the biotic health of this ecosystem.

Working closely with staff and researchers from the Great Basin Institute, and the University of Nevada, Reno, CI students participated in community-based research projects such as baseline inventorying, Geographic Information System mapping, restoration design, implementation, and monitoring and hydrologic monitoring. Working among the roots of the mangroves forests, students also conducted bird counts and snorkeled near the coral reef to sample marine invertebrates. Data collected by CI students will be used to inform local restoration and educational initiatives.

FACULTY/COMMUNITY RESEARCH

Food Share Hunger Study 2009

Faculty: Sunghee Choi

In spring 2009, faculty member Sunghee Choi and twenty-two Sociology Capstone and Internship students partnered with Food Share, Ventura County's regional food bank, to participate in the 2009 Hunger Study. Twenty-eight community agencies were involved in conducting 459 interviews in nineteen separate locations. Students interviewed clients and tabulated and analyzed the collected surveys.

The purpose of the study was (1) to assess the number of hungry and food insecure people; (2) to understand the patterns and causes of hunger and food insecurity; and (3) to evaluate how current social services and community agencies are effectively meeting the needs of the hungry in Oxnard, Port Hueneme, and Santa Paula.

This study is particularly timely and important because it assesses how the current economic crisis affects the existing population of hunger and food insecurity and whether or not the economic crisis created a newly hungry population in Ventura County.

Data will be used to provide efficient food assistance services to meet the needs of the hungry in Ventura County and to prepare grant applications for funding to support food purchases and food assistance programs.

Mariposa Evolucionando

Faculty: Christy Teranishi

The Mariposa Evolucionando (the Evolving Butterfly) mentorship program developed as a collaborative effort between faculty member Christy Teranishi, CI undergraduate students, alumni and at-risk youths and adults in the community, to address the problem of intimate partner violence (IPV) in our community.

From September 2008 through May 2009, seven CSUCI students volunteered to meet bi-weekly to help a group of young battered women develop a support network, providing them with a safe place to vent their feelings through positive outlets, such as journals, artwork, poetry and writing. Diversity and mentorship training sessions, a yoga class, and a conflict resolution workshop provided them with tools to increase their self-esteem, communication skills, and their sense of identity.

A research project emerged from our initial efforts to create an IPV resource handbook. We are conducting a study to examine how people respond to various domestic violence scenarios and will compare them with experts' suggestions for competent

responses to handle these situations. We are listening to the voices of all students and community members and utilizing the strengths of the stakeholders to conduct our research on intimate partner violence scenarios in order to discover effective intervention and prevention strategies.

In spring 2010, faculty member Christy Teranishi, several CI undergraduates, and alumni will present at the 13th Annual Continuums of Service conference in Portland to discuss how their civic engagement has contributed to bridging the university and the community to create awareness of the prevalence of intimate partner violence.

CLUBS/ORGANIZATIONS

Cycling Dolphins

Team Captain: Andrew Morris

Over the last 3 years approximately 40 alumni, staff, faculty, students (14) and friends of CI—the Bicycle Kitchen, Cycling Dolphins—have either ridden or volunteered for the Bike MS Southern California Ride. Bicycle rides sponsored by the National Multiple Sclerosis Society (MS150) are collectively one of the largest organized charity events in the world and the Southern California ride draws from the largest overall population. CI participants, either as bicycle riders and/or event volunteers, have contributed over 400 hours of service and raised over \$23,000. Funds raised either support disease research or help provide programs and services to individuals with multiple sclerosis and their families. In 2007, 2008 the CI Bicycle Kitchen raised the most funds of any school-based team in the event.

Gamma Beta Phi

Faculty Advisor: Greg Sawyer

The Gamma Beta Phi (GBP) Society is an honor and service organization for students in colleges and universities in the United States. It is non-secret, non-profit, and co-educational; and, membership there-in does not exclude a student from membership in any other organization. Members are required to complete at least 8 hours of community service per semester. The chapter sets up volunteer activities on certain days so that members may volunteer together, though they are also encouraged to seek out activities that mean something special to them or that they truly enjoy doing. The majority of the membership completes those hours every semester, fulfilling their duties and graduating with the honor of wearing the GBP sash at commencement.

Each December, GBP is involved with the RAIN Holiday Party. The RAIN Project Transitional Living Center provides housing, and necessary training and resources, to help individuals and families successfully transition to independent living. Every year, GBP members collect toys from CI students, faculty, and staff by providing designated toy drop-off bins around the campus. They then wrap the toys and give them to the children living at the center.

Hillel Club**Faculty Advisor: Nancy Loman**

The Hillel group prepared sweet potatoes as part of a Thanksgiving dinner put on by the Moose Lodge in Camarillo. The Lodge served nearly 200 people and the students prepared many pans of sweet potatoes to add to the dinner. The Lodge and the Hillel Club split the cost of the ingredients and the students helped prepare the many pans. The volunteers of the Moose Lodge enjoyed having CI students in their kitchen!

Relay for Life**Team Captain: Deanne Ellison**

This year for the Camarillo Relay for Life 2009, CI fielded a team of 75 faculty, staff, and students who raised over \$5,000 to contribute to the overall total of the Camarillo Relay for Life 2009 grand total of \$150,000. Fundraising included events with Tortillas Grill, the Cove Bookstore, and a 50's style fundraiser entitled, "Donate in Style." In total, the CI team contributed over 300 fundraising hours for the Camarillo Relay for Life cause.

Spectrum Club**Advisor: Kari Moss**

The Spectrum was selected to be one of various Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender (GLBT) organizations in the region to show support for the push to overturn Proposition 8. The organization hopes to educate and promote awareness and diversity by supporting the Restore Equality 2010 campaign. The Restore Equality 2010 is a grass-roots campaign in the state of California that is informing and encouraging Californians to properly restore marriage equality in the state.

In the 2008 campaign, not enough voices were being heard outside of Los Angeles and San Francisco because the information presented was misleading. The voice of the GLBT community and their allies was not strong enough to overturn Proposition 8, which both discriminates and promotes segregation of the GLBT community. Spectrum will be collaborating with various local organizations, among them Restore Equality 2010, by emailing state representatives, petitioning, and attending Town Hall meetings.

Zeta Pi Omega**Advisor: Lisa Racine**

This sorority currently has 24 members- two currently studying abroad in Italy and Spain, plus 20 alumni. Last year, the Zeta Pi Omega (ZPO) Greek Sorority completed a total of 599 volunteer hours. Of those hours, 160 were from campus activities such as the Student Programming Board Luau, Family Weekend Pancake Breakfast, Walk a Mile in Her Shoes, and the Talent Show. ZPO also raised \$8,000 for nonprofit organizations out in the community. ZPO has been involved in Big Brothers and Big Sisters, UNICEF, Relay for Life, Avon Breast Cancer Walk, MS Walk, and Make Surgery Bearable with UCLA's Jules Stein Eye Institute, raising money and participating in these events. For

example, ZPO participated in the Avon Breast Cancer walk was a two-day event where a team of four ZPO women raised over \$1,200 each for breast cancer research and to support women who are in different stages of breast cancer or know someone who has cancer.

EVENTS/PROGRAMS

College for a Day Migrant Education Day: College for a Day: Imagine, Believe, Achieve Hosted by Breana Christie and Vanessa Mendoza

College for a Day is a program hosted by University Outreach at CI and is designed to serve the local Ventura County K-8 migrant community from the El Rio School District. This program supports the countywide P-16 initiative to promote a college-going culture in Ventura County. During spring 2009, 75 staff, faculty and student volunteers welcomed 250 3rd-8th grade students and 30 parents. Activities included a keynote speaker, CI campus tour, "How to Get to College" presentation, arts and crafts, and a parent component. The aim of the annual event is to equip K-8 students and their families with knowledge about the importance of higher education.

Community-Campus Town Hall meeting

Hosted by Faculty Director: Andrea Grove and Assistant Director: Pilar Pacheco

The Center for Community Engagement, in collaboration with the Martin V. Smith School of Business & Economics, the Political Science program, Student Government, and Ventura County Together – a community collaborative comprised of First 5 Ventura County, United Way of Ventura County, Ventura County Community Foundation, and the Community Commission for Ventura County hosted a town hall meeting.

The meeting provided a forum for the university and community to engage in conversations about needs and assets as a result of the current economic crisis, raised awareness of the impacts of the crisis, strengthened partnerships between the University and the community, and provided a foundation of information for the CSU to seek external funders to support community engagement work throughout California.

Through leveraging university and community resources, plus joint community research, CI will be able to better serve the community, strengthen community partnerships, and create awareness of the current problems and needs of the community as a whole.

Pathway to College

Hosted by Leaders in Education Awareness Program (LEAP)

The Pathway to College campus visit program serves thousands of students each year and exists to begin the college exploration conversation at a young age between students and their parents. This program is hosted by LEAP students and serves K-8 grade students every Friday during the academic year. The four-hour program consists of a "How to Get to College" presentation. At the program's close, two students are

then selected to wear a cap and gown, symbolizing their success in obtaining a post-secondary degree. A "Class of" group picture is then taken indicating the year that the students would graduate from college. During the 2008-2009 academic year, approximately 2,100 students were served by the Pathway to College program among 34 schools in Ventura County.

Social Justice Fund: Making a Change

Faculty Directors: Andrea Grove, Brad Monsma, and Julia Balen

Sponsored by the Centers for Community Engagement, Integrative Studies, and Multicultural Engagement, this fall 2009 event, included a discussion about social justice and what it means to create change instead of charity. Community members came together with faculty and students to dialogue, gain valuable insight, and raise awareness about the social, economic, and environmental issues facing Ventura County.

United Way Day of Caring: River Haven Project

Participants: Faculty, CI students, and staff

In September 2009, CI participated in United Way's Day of Caring. Faculty, students, and staff helped rebuild the homeless tent community, River Haven, located in Ventura. Tents, originally used to house the River Haven community, were in need of being replaced. Many of the tents were torn, subject to mold, with rotting wooden floors. Students helped build 6 U-Domes that are 200 square feet for couples and 13 U-Domes that are 120 square feet for singles. At the end of the day, faculty, students, and staff contributed to building 19 new structures that are flame retardant, private, weather tight, and roomy.