Happy Spring from the RCA!

It has been an honor to be the director of the RCA this year. We are gearing up for a strong end to a very busy academic year. We are especially excited for the RCA Spring Fundraiser on Saturday, April 27, 2019 at the Santa Cruz Museum of Art & History. Please join us in supporting UC Santa Cruz students by purchasing your admission tickets today or by sponsoring students to attend the Fiesta. Please be sure to follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. We look forward to seeing you at our Spring fundraiser and events. Thank you for supporting the RCA.

Saludos,
Sylvanna M. Falcón, Director
Research Center for the Americas

UPCOMING SPRING EVENTS

Lightning Talks:
Beyond Borders,
Thursday, March 28,
6:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m.,

Alberto Ledesma presents: Diary of a Reluctant Dreamer,
Monday, April 22,

FIESTA Fundraiser,
Saturday, April 27,
8:00 p.m.–12 a.m.,
Santa Cruz Museum of Art & History

Come hear four dynamic talks about borders, and overcoming them. Dr. Patricia Pinho (LALS) will discuss her new outlook on Halloween thanks to her bicultural daughter. Michelle Gomez Parra (Sociology graduate student) will address how her life is now a borderland existence. Gina Fernandez (undergraduate LALS) will share what her studies have taught her about family and home. Juan Carlos Santiago Dávila will talk about reporting on the frontlines of Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico.

5:30 p.m.–7:00 p.m., Classroom Unit 2
Join us to welcome Dr. Alberto Ledesma to UC Santa Cruz. Dr. Ledesma (UC Berkeley) will discuss his book *Diary of a Reluctant Dreamer: Undocumented Vignettes from a Pre-American Life* which combines text and illustrations, political and social commentary, and autobiography to narrate its protagonist’s transition from nervous, undocumented immigrant kid to university professor and administrator, artist, and activist.

Santa Cruz Museum of Art & History

Our FIESTA fundraiser will include live student performances by Grupo Folklórico Los Mejicas and Mariachi Eterno, and Latin-fusion dance music by Calíco. The FIESTA also includes a silent action, photo booth, cash bar, and much more, with proceeds supporting RCA student awards for research and professional development as well as the Reyna Grande Creative Writing Scholarship and the Wally Goldfrank Research Award. Gather your crew, get your tickets, and come dance!

Rethinking Gendered Violence and Immigrant Lives Symposium, Thursday, May 2, 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m., Merrill Cultural Center
Hosted by the Women’s Health, Gender and Empowerment Center of Expertise student ambassadors, this free, public symposium will feature faculty, students, and community organizers in three panel discussion that inspire critical and fruitful dialogues across disciplines, generations, and workplaces. Co-sponsors: Sociology Department, Latin American and Latino Studies Department, Graduate Studies Association, Office for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and UC Center of Expertise on Women’s Health, Gender, and Empowerment.

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS
Human Rights Student Researchers for 2019–2020

**Eligibility:** UC Santa Cruz undergraduate and graduate students in good academic standing.

**Deadline:** 5:00 p.m., Friday, May 3, 2019

The RCA is launching a new research lab for 2019–2020 called **Human Rights Investigations Lab for the Americas**. UC Santa Cruz students would receive critical training on how to systemically locate and verify social media postings and become part of a new generation of human rights investigators. Verifying social media postings can serve as added evidence to testimonies and substantiate news media reports when human rights organizations present cases in the legal arena or as part of their campaigns. Please direct any questions to rca@ucsc.edu.

Lionel Cantú Memorial Award

**Eligibility:** UC Santa Cruz graduate students in good academic standing in the Social Sciences, Humanities, or Arts.

**Deadline:** 5:00 p.m., Friday, May 3, 2019

The Lionel Cantú Memorial Award celebrates the life and work of Lionel Cantú (1965–2002), former Assistant Professor of Sociology at UC Santa Cruz. Professor Cantú’s scholarship bridged and advanced Latino sociology, immigration studies, transnational/cross–border studies, gender and sexuality studies, and the study of gay men and masculinity. UC Santa Cruz graduate students working in any of these areas are eligible to apply, although preference will go to those working in and linking more than one area.

Joel Frankel Memorial Fund Award

**Eligibility:** UC Santa Cruz undergraduates pursuing field studies in Latin America or within Latina/o communities in the United States. Priority is given to Merrill College students, LALS majors, and Politics majors focusing on Latin American and Latina/o issues.
The Joel Frankel Memorial Fund is named in honor of Joel Frankel, Class of 1979, a Politics major with a strong interest in Third World Studies and a former coordinator of the World Studies Table. The purpose of the fund is to learn from and assist in social change initiatives originating in Latin American and/or Latino communities. Grants will be awarded on the basis of merit and financial need.

UPDATE ON RCA INITIATIVE

Journalism Project
Since October 2018, the RCA in collaboration with KZSC Radio has been part of a yearlong project at the Digital NEST in Watsonville, California equipping, training, and mentoring a team of broadcast journalists from South County. This rewarding project has sought to proactively address the digital and media racial/ethnic divide, by introducing young adults to research, audio, and digital production skills. Thanks to the Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County and UC Santa Cruz’s Chancellor’s Graduate Student Internship Program for supporting this project. (Photo taken by Nick Gonzales.)

KUDOS & ACHIEVEMENTS
Photo Contest Winners

We are pleased to announce the winners of our second annual photo contest on the theme of Love. Community. Home. Congratulations to Emma McWaid (1st), Mars Bolden (2nd), Shanti Kumar (3rd) (left to right), and Kan Wen (honorable mention). These winning photographs will be exhibited at the Santa Cruz Museum of Art & History at our Spring fundraiser. Congrats Slugs!

Accolades for RCA Faculty Affiliates


A Look Back: The Activist–in–Residency Program

The RCA had the honor of welcoming our first Activist–in–Residence, Isaí Ambrosio, Director of the Davenport Resource Service Center (DRSC) in Winter quarter. The residency facilitated the university’s ability to be of service to our local community and helped the RCA realize its mission in a meaningful way. We are looking forward to the new collaborations and new inspirations that will unfold in the near future. Check out the local NPR story about the residency HERE. During the residency, Isaí designed a new series of workshops to support the empowerment of immigrant mothers in Davenport, California. Isaí is extending his residency through Spring quarter. He can be reached by email (iambrosi@ucsc.edu) and will have Friday morning office hours at the RCA.