



## Welcome Back from AC!

Last semester AC celebrated its 25th anniversary, and what a series of events we were able to host! Thank you to all of the staff, students, faculty, alumni and friends who made the events such a success. The anniversary events also provided opportunities to capture some of the vital memories of the beginnings of the AC curriculum and how in big and small ways, the current undergraduate curriculum has been nourished by these founding conversations and hard work. I am grateful that through this collective effort, studying, learning and teaching, the complexity of literature, language, history, philosophy, science, music, and so many other forms of knowledge has entered the AC curriculum. This inventive work continues to accompany AC and I look forward to the next academic year of creativity that new projects and new possibilities will bring to the history we have just celebrated.

With warm regards,

Victoria Robinson  
Program Director, The American Cultures Center

## Upcoming Events & Announcements

### AC Fall Open House

**Wednesday, September 10, 9 - 11am**  
**360 Stephens Hall, Conference Room**

Please join us in the new American Cultures Center. Located on the Third Floor of Stephens Hall. Light refreshments will be provided. We look forward to seeing you!

**AC Course Approval Subcommittee Meeting**  
**Friday, September 5, 2014**

The first Subcommittee meeting date for American Cultures (AC) course approvals is Friday, September 5. In the event that a new instructor is assigned to an AC course or a new AC course will be offered in your department, we encourage you to contact the AC Center ([victoriarobbi@berkeley.edu](mailto:victoriarobbi@berkeley.edu)) at least a week before the subcommittee meeting date. Submissions must be received by 4pm Tuesday, September 2. The subcommittee meeting dates for the 2014-2015 school year are:

FALL 2014  
September 5  
October 10  
November 7  
December 5

SPRING 2015  
January 23  
February 20  
March 13  
April 17  
May 1

## 2014 AC Awards and Grants

### Accepting ACES Grants Applications for Spring - Fall 2015, Deadline 9/1

The AC Center is pleased to announce that it is now accepting applications for the development of new or revised American Cultures courses that emphasize public scholarship and engage students in community-based projects. These courses form part of the American Cultures Engaged Scholarship (ACES) Program which was launched in 2010 as a partnership between the American Cultures Center and the Public Service Center. This program aims to transform how faculty's community-engaged scholarship is valued, to enhance learning for students through a combination of teaching and practice and to create a new knowledge that has impact both in the community and the academy. [Click here for an application.](#)

[For more information on the ACES program](#)

### Inaugural ACES 'Impact Award', Deadline 9/19

The AC Center is pleased to announce the first 'Impact Award' for ACES. This award is intended to strengthen existing community engaged scholarship projects and harness collective expertise to maximize the impact of our research and teaching, recognizing that our university can best address complex challenges by transcending the boundaries between academic disciplines. Recipients of the Impact Award will receive funds of \$10,000. [Click here for an application.](#)

[More information](#)

## New! Videos for AC 25th Anniversary April 21-25, 2014

In April, the AC Center celebrated its 25th year anniversary with a week-long series of campus-wide events featuring lectures from founding AC alumni Jeff Chang, Rickey Vincent, Mark Min, current ASUC & AC Student Advisory Board Members, Chancellor's Professor Troy Duster, Former AC Director Ron Choy, Artist Melanie Cervantes, and a keynote speech from Professor Pedro Noguera. Below please find videos for each day or visit:

<http://americancultures.berkeley.edu/25th-anniversary-american-cultures-requirement>



## In Conversation: AC Alumni and Current Student Advisory Board Monday, April 21st, Ethnic Studies Library

1989 UC Berkeley undergraduates Jeff Chang (Stanford University), Rickey Vincent (UC Berkeley), and Mark Min (City Span) hosted a conversation with the current AC Student Advisory Board and Cal Serve members.

[Slideshow video](#)

## The Art of AC! Tuesday, April 22nd, Multicultural Community Center (MCC)

### Center (MCC)

The AC Center showcased its past art and posters from 25 years of programming and introduced its 25th anniversary poster by Melanie Cervantes ([Dignidad Rebelde](#)). Melanie introduced the new artwork and hosted a conversation on the role of art and activism.

[Video](#)

## The AC Center: The Early Years Wednesday, April 23rd, 470 Stephens Hall

TED-style Talk with the former AC Center Research Director Troy Duster (Chancellor's Professor of Sociology, UC Berkeley) and the first AC Center Assistant Director Ron Choy.

[Video](#)

## Research Justice: A Symposium Exploring Community Engaged Scholarship Thursday, April 24th, Anna Head Alumnae Hall

The American Engaged Scholarship Program, the Oakland DataCenter and the UC Berkeley Public Service Center co-hosted Research Justice, a symposium exploring how community engaged scholarship can re-shape how we view the university and "the public". This symposium held a critical conversation about university-community partnerships that take the form of community engaged scholarship, particularly focusing on how this work can support movements for social justice.

[Video](#)

## Social Justice in Higher Education: Lessons from 1989 Friday, April 25th, Anna Head Alumnae Hall

Professor Pedro Noguera (Peter L. Agnew Professor of Education, New York University) provided the keynote speech on the very date the AC Requirement was passed by the UC Berkeley Academic Senate twenty five years earlier, and discussed the connections and dislocations between the anti-apartheid struggle and the AC Requirement. His speech was followed with a Q&A session with AC Senate Chair, Professor Lisa Garcia Bedolla (Graduate School of Education, UC Berkeley).

[Video](#)

## 2014 Recipients: AC Innovation in Teaching and Student Research Prize

This year the American Cultures Center co-hosted a ceremony for both the AC Innovation in Teaching Award and Student Research Prize alongside the Charlene Conrad Liebau Library Prizes on May 8, 2014, 4-6pm in the Morrison Reading Room, Doe Library.



## The Innovation in Teaching Award

The **Innovation in Teaching Award** recognizes faculty whose teaching significantly enhances students' learning in the AC classroom. The applicant pool was highly competitive, so much so that awards were presented by the selection committee to two faculty.

### *Professor Leslea Hlusko, Integrative Biology 35AC*

Since the Fall of 2005, Professor Hlusko has developed her American Cultures course Integrative Biology 35AC 'Human Biological Variation,' the first course in the biological sciences to satisfy UC Berkeley's AC Requirement. She designed this course in order to expose the cultural and historical relevance of biology to both students who may never take another biology class in their lives and scientists that have intimate knowledge of their subject but do not discover its connection within larger contexts. The course is innovative in the way it teaches students how biological variation plays a role in day-to-day life-from interactions on the street, to governmental policies on healthcare and food stamps, to how a doctor interacts with her patients. Professor Hlusko feels strongly that an understanding of the millions of years of human evolution goes a long way towards alleviating much of the anger, racism, and hostility that revolves around race, ethnicity, disability, disease, and sexual orientation (among other contemporary social and racial constructs).

### *Professor Jun Sunseri, Anthropology 2AC*

Professor Sunseri is given this award for his creation and instruction of Anthropology 2AC, the first American Cultures Engaged Scholarship (ACES) course in the department of Anthropology. This course explores the implications of having non-written histories for American communities, positioning them in a real social and political context. Students work with communities in the Bay Area and other parts of California, by partaking in community engaged activities including "mock-digs" and community mapping with students from K-12, and working with community members towards rights of sovereignty, land and water for Native Californian communities. Professor Sunseri innovates community engaged scholarship through the Anthropology department that is designed to create a lasting impact on both the students enrolled and the communities they work with and inhabit.

## The Student Research Prize

### *Katie Schiff, International and Area Studies*

This year's AC Student Research Prize went to undergraduate Katie Schiff for her submission entitled *Redefining Success: Refugee Education and Oakland International High School*. Her thesis explores the effectiveness of English language development for high-school age refugees enrolled in Oakland International High School (OIHS). Katie developed an interest for this innovative study while enrolled in an American Cultures Engaged Scholarship (ACES) course, Sociology 113AC and volunteering at OIHS. Katie embodies the principles of community-engaged scholarship by examining the promotion of cultural competency at OIHS, the effectiveness of their programs, and the many social and racial issues that high-school age English learners are forced to confront upon their arrival to the United States.

[Read selection](#)

## ACES Faculty Spotlight

### **Dr. Sean Burns, Director of Student Programs, The Blum Center for Developing Economies**

This month our ACES Faculty Spotlight features Dr. Sean Burns, recipient of a 2014 Chancellor's Public Service Public Service-Learning Leadership Award for his course, *Social Movements, Urban*

*Histories, and the Politics of Memory*. Dr. Burn's course connects undergraduates with Bay Area activists and community organizers. In his course, Dr. Burns examines the history of progressive social movements in the San Francisco Bay Area. Combines history, sociology, urban geography, and ethnic studies, asking: why and how these movements emerged? What cultural, racial, ethnic and political identities were drawn from, reconfigured, and created in these movements? What kinds of knowledge and institutions were created by these movements? How have these legacies shaped the culture and politics of the area? The course allows students to assist in documenting social movement history in collaboration with the course community partners.



[Watch an interview with Dr. Burns](#)

## Imagining America

Imagining America (IA) <http://imaginingamerica.org> is a consortium of over 100 colleges and universities working on the transformational task of democratizing the culture of higher education institutions through scholars and practitioners who draw on the arts, humanities, and design in their work.



The AC Center, Blum Center for Developing Economies, Haas Institute for a Fair and Inclusive Institute and Public Service Center, have together formed a UC Berkeley membership to the IA consortium. IA was formally launched at a 1999 White House Conference initiated by the White House Millennium Council, the University of Michigan, and the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation. The name Imagining America reflects the theme of the White House Millennium Council, focused on renewing participation in all walks of U.S. life: *'Honor the Past - Imagine the Future.'*

Information regarding our campus IA partnership and the opportunities the partnership presents will be detailed in future newsletters. The IA 2014 conference 'Organize. Culture. Change' is on October 9-11.

<http://imaginingamerica.org/convenings/national-conference/>

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