From the Dean

Dear Students,

This year would have marked César Chávez’ 91st birthday. As many of you know, Cesar was an American farm worker, who championed change, alongside Dolores Huerta and many other activists, to improve working conditions for farmworkers. Their efforts are not forgotten, particularly here at CLSA; we commemorate them through ongoing programming, during the months of March and April, to keep their spirit alive. In fact, we kicked off our Cesar Chavez Celebration calendar with Dr. Karina Ramos, CMC ’05, who reflected on her experiences being an undocumented student at the Claremont Colleges, and how her current profession, as a mental health practitioner for undocumented youth, is directly related to her own upbringing. We also heard from Jorge Gutierrez, who shared about his work, both at the local and national level, within the Latinx Undocuqueer Trans Liberation Movement. We were also inspired by Dr. Luis Garcia, CGU ’17, who spoke about “La Loteria as Creative Resistance.” In mid-March, Sobre La Mesa held yet another successful event by featuring Omar Ramirez, visiting lecture for the Intercollegiate Department of Chicano Latino Studies, and Quetzal Flores, ACTA’s art consultant, who presented on “Restorative and Transformative Cultural Methods, at Large and Behind Bars.” We also invited Professor Giovanni Ortega, who filled the room with individuals who wanted to hear more about his new book, “ANG GITANO – THEY GYPSY.” And finally, CLSA held their first annual Poetas and Poemas event, where over 50 students showed up to hear poetry and indulge in a sweet treat the evening prior to The Claremont Colleges’ “Cesar Chavez: Day of Observance.”

Although our event calendar for the month of March appeared to be quite dynamic, there was a common thread, and that was addressing issues impacting marginalized communities. What is most telling about each of these events was that they all presented innovative ways that they’re empowering and positively impacting these populations, which is a true testament to César Chávez, and the message he had for us to continue “fighting the good fight.” Whether it’s done through sharing our own stories, or through our activism, we find that grit and heart is needed to do this type of work.

With that said, we invite you to attend our upcoming events, for the month of April:

April 6th, from 3-5p.m., come to CLSA for our “Pre-Rockabilly Art Session: Sugar Skull Decorating”

April 7th, from 12-3p.m., is Cesar Chavez Day of Service; where we will be packaging food for the extremely needy (HMC: Linde Activity Center.)

April 11th, from 12-1p.m., join “Lunch and Learn with Matt Sedillo: The Poetry of Pain, Politics, and Promise” at HMC, Hoch-Shanahan Dinning Commons, Aviation Room.

April 13th, from 1:30-3p.m., at CLSA, we will have “Annette Armas leading an art project honoring Cesar Chavez.” RSVP clsa@cuc.claremont.edu a must.

April 24th, from 12-1:30p.m., Sobre La Mesa, at CLSA.

April 25th, from 12-1p.m., Cesar Chavez Luncheon with Dr. Martha Gutierrez, at Pitzer.

We look forward to seeing you all there!

Sincerely,

Xochitl Casillas
Assistant Dean of Students

Assistant Dean of Students
Almost every Sunday since January a group of students gathered at the Pomona College Draper Center. Each one arriving with books and backpacks or green boxes, sometimes smiles, other times with little bags under their eyes, true signs of college life at the 7C’s. All 12 of these students represented Pomona, Pitzer, CMC, and Scripps; a great mix of students from 4 of the 5C’s. These hand-picked students were the 2018 San Diego Alternabreakers, a group of students representing the Claremont Colleges who were interested in volunteering their time focusing around the issue of immigration within the Latinx community in San Diego.

As we gathered every Sunday, for an hour, my co-leader and “right hand amigo” Erik Guillen (PO ’18) and I led conversations and activities around the issues of immigration within the San Diego community and the nation. We had conversations about current issues of immigration, homelessness, gentrification, and most importantly, about our own privilege and experiences with immigration. We talked extensively about our volunteer opportunities during the week of spring break including: feeding the homeless, providing legal aid to persons who just crossed the border, visiting immigration court, and working with the Chicano Park Steering Committee.

As each week passed, we began to see tensions rise within the San Diego community regarding immigration. In the weeks leading up to our arrival, Nationalist groups had staged protests within Chicano Park, and a video of a mother who had been torn away from her three daughters, by ICE officials, surfaced. The last straw was a phone call I received on the Friday before we left, letting us know we could no longer volunteer with an organization because President Trump would be visiting San Diego to choose a prototype for “the wall.”

Erik and I were concerned, we discussed these developments with our group, and everyone was still willing to do the work we had planned, regardless of the tense situations we had stumbled into.

So we left Claremont and made our way to San Diego, a group of students from literally all over the country, were ready to get to work. We got to San Diego, and right away we started working with Father Joe’s Villages, a transitional center for the homeless population located in downtown San Diego. We walked through several construction sites to get to Father Joe’s and saw the detrimental effects of gentrification on the homeless community. We worked in the kitchen serving over 500 meals in a 4-hour period. We spoke to persons who had been homeless for years, some for only a matter of weeks.

We went to immigration court and saw several cases of respondents whose lives were changed in a matter of minutes. We sat in courtrooms where families watched as their loved ones were deported. We attended marches and demonstrations in the San Diego community, and we were able to hear stories of resilience and beauty from the Chicano Park Steering Committee while we repainted the skate park.

In essence, we were welcomed by the San Diego community with open arms to come and work and learn from the lived experiences of others. We had the privilege of witnessing some of the most difficult parts of peoples stories, while also reliving some of our own. We reflected on everything we experienced, we sat and listened to each other, and most importantly, we created our own little familia. In all reality, we had to stick together, we went in and saw life-changing situations and in response, created our own forms of resistance. Some of which included constantly blasting the Black Panther sound track and listening to Gods Plan too many times, but we also danced and laughed constantly. We were that group, that familia taking up space and not being sorry for it. What we really learned on this trip was the importance of resistance and the many ways it takes shape within us and our communities. I had the honor of co-leading a group of future doctors, lawyers, linguists, educators and scientists for one week, all of whom will remember the people and places we visited, all of whom will make the world kinder, smarter and better for you and me.
One Year Later

Submitted by
Bernardo Moyza
Pomona ’20 and CLSA Intern

This is Tony Jimenez’s sixth year at Chicano Latino Student Affairs Center. The first five were spent as Assistant Dean, while this sixth one is his first as Dean of Students and Director of CLSA. He took charge of the center after the retirement of former Dean Maria Torres.

When asked to describe his first year in just three words, Dean Tony thinks for a second. “Transformative. Invigorating. Reflective.”

It’s not hard to see why this kind of job would be accompanied by such descriptors, but there must also be challenges. The next question posed was: what are some of the challenges you have faced as Dean?

“Being able to serve the seven colleges, which are widely diverse, and still make sure the Center is being inclusive. In short, making sure the Center serves all students of Latinx descent.” There are thousands of students at the 7C’s, with a significant portion of them being of Latinx descent. Dean Tony says he expected this challenge. He mentioned that it is sometimes easy, since the 7C’s are located in Southern California, to fall into a “Southern California paradigm” where it is easy to overlook those from different backgrounds. That is why he makes sure to act deliberately and with intent.

What are some of the goals you set for yourself and for the Center? How have you worked towards them? 1. Make sure the Latinx diaspora is accurately represented 2. Create a stronger bond between faculty and the Center 3. Be a bigger presence at all 7C’s”.

Dean Tony went on to elaborate on each of these. For the first, programming at CLSA has gone past the Chicano area in the past year. There have been Salsa events, talks on the Afro-Latino diaspora, and Know Your Rights Forums for those who need it. Dean Tony feels the Center is going through a positive change, since positive action is being taken. In terms of faculty engagement, Dean Tony has made sure that collaborations with faculty are more common. There was recently a Sobre la Mesa with Chicana/Latina Studies Professor Gilda Ochoa. As for increasing the presence of the Center, there have been Coffee Hours with the Dean at all of the campuses.

Dean Tony came into the position at a time where the political landscape was in discord. When asked how this affected his first year, Dean Tony said that it was a matter of dialogue: “In the national landscape, there has been a lack of dialogue.” This has prompted Dean Tony to make sure the Center is a place where dialogue is encouraged.

To end the interview on a high note, we asked: What is your favorite memory as Dean so far? Dean Tony was not able to pick a specific event. However, he did say that the best part of his job is seeing the success of students. “Having the opportunity to work with such bright students and seeing them succeed is my biggest joy, to see the narratives of families change for the better.”

César Chávez Day of Service

Don’t miss out on an opportunity to do something very rewarding while having a great time. In collaboration with the Office of the Chaplains, CLSA is dedicating a day of service to César Chávez’ memory and hosting the RISE AGAINST HUNGER event. We have plans to package more than 16,000 meals in just two hours so we need as many students as possible help reach this goal. Please register for the day of service scheduled for Saturday, April 7th at https://shn.secure.force.com/events/homepage?id=701f1000002r2ouAA.

Rise Against Hunger will take place at 12 noon at HMC Linde Activities Center. Get ready for some gong-ringing, dancing and doing a great deed.

“The end of all knowledge should be service to others.”
~César E. Chávez

Bocafloja Quilombo

CLSA looks forward to co-hosting, with Professor Kone of the Pomona Department of Politics, artist Bocafloja Quilombo on April 13th.

Bocafloja is an Afro-Mexican artist—a documentary filmmaker, spoken word artist and hip-hop artist. This will be an open event where Dialogue and Documentary will take place in Pomona College Carnegie 109 starting at 1:15 pm.

Bocafloja will discuss Afro-Mexican and Afro-Latino identity, and how questions of race and ethnicity enter his work as an artist followed by his documentary “Nana Dijo”. CLSA looks forward to co-hosting, with Professor Kone of the Pomona Department of Politics, artist Bocafloja Quilombo on April 13th.

Bocafloja Quilombo
Resource Center News

Fellowships

The American Psychological Association Psychology Summer Institute (PSI) provides educational, professional development and mentoring experiences to advanced doctoral students of psychology and psychologists who are in the early stage of their careers. Participants are guided toward developing a grant proposal, postdoctoral fellowship, dissertation, treatment program, publication or program evaluation project. All projects must focus on issues affecting ethnic minority communities. Participants will receive one-on-one mentoring on their projects by a consultant. Expert faculty will present seminars on selected topics such as grant writing, publishing and specific areas of research or service delivery. There will also be opportunities to network with representatives from federal agencies and foundations. The deadline is May 1st. The application can be found at http://www.apa.org/pi/mfp/psychology/institute/index.aspx.

Are you interested in teaching? What about teaching in an urban area? If so, check out Urban Teachers. Urban Teachers is equipping new teachers with the tools they need to make an immediate difference in student learning. Learn more at http://www.urbanteachers.org/. The final application deadline is April 30th.

Information Session

Apple will be back on campus on Tuesday, April 17, 2018 at CMC Founders Room in Bauer Center North. They will have a Finance Panel including CMC alumni to give students an idea of what it’s like to work for Apple. They will also be sharing information on the application process for their Summer 2019 Internships. RSVP via Handshake.

Job Opportunity

The Pomona Unified School District is looking to hire tutors and would love to hire brilliant Latinx Claremont students. Learn more about the tutor position at https://www.edjoin.org/Home/JobPosting/930171.

Scholarships

Southwest Airlines and the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) are once again sponsoring the ¡Lánzate! Travel Award Program. Through this national education initiative, HACU and Southwest Airlines will award 1-4 roundtrip airline tickets to each undergraduate and graduate recipients across the country who travel away from home to pursue a higher education. For additional information visit, https://www.hacu.net/hacu/Lanzate.asp. The application deadline is April 13th.

Volunteer Opportunity

Would you like to be part of a group of 5C students organizing a “Know Your Rights” Resource Fair in the City of Pomona on April 21st and 22nd? In collaboration with local grassroots organizations like the Pomona Day Labor Center and Latina/a Round Table as well as the Pomona Unified School District and LA County Supervisor Solis’ office, it is expected that we will reach/serve over 300 people at this resource fair and we need volunteers in all areas. If you are interested in sharing your time, please fill out the volunteer interest form: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfyoyseyTnNEU9rOJAZ5G-rH3jDObw7j_4CBJVPb1RzEXD-g/viewform.
The CLSA Spring BBQ or more fondly known as the “Carne Asada” was held Wednesday, March 28th and was a huge success. We had a large showing of the 7C Latinx community, the weather was perfect and the food was delicious! We all ate, laughed and some even danced to lively music.
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