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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR CHICANA AND CHICANO STUDIES NEWSLETTER

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NACCS Returns to Mexico

NACCS returns to the Mexican Republic. Mark your calendars, June 28 - July 1, 2006. The 2006 NACCS conference is hosted by the Universidad de Guadalajara. The Guadalajara conference marks the third time (1991, Hermosillo, Sonora/ 1998 Mexico, DF) the national conference heads to Mexico.

Transnational Chicana and Chicano Studies: Linking the Local with the Global in Struggles for Social Justice.

Chicana/o studies, as a field of study has never separated academic production from the struggles to achieve social justice. In fact, the reason for creating the field was to articulate the relationship between intellectual work and activism in various communities. As integral part of this engagement, was also the preoccupation with internationalist struggles all over the world and the lessons Chicano communities could derive to apply them within the US context. The transnational connection was especially important with Mexico, as many of our families resided both in the US and in Mexico, but as well as with the rest of the Americas. The theme for the 2006 meetings is especially opportune given that our conference site will be in Guadalajara, Mexico. Papers are solicited that address the inherent transnational aspect of Chicana/o studies not only with Mexico, the Americas, but also with social justice struggles across the globe.

Deadline: October 16, 2005. Electronic submissions.

NACCS Conference

**Guadalajara, México
June 28-July 1, 2006**

**hosted
by the
Universidad
de Guadalajara**

**Deadline:
October 16, 2005.
Electronic submissions**

In Search of former Frederick A. Cervantes Recipients

***NACCS is compiling the
names of all Cervantes recip-
ients. If you are one or know
of one, please send them to
NACCS.org to submit the
needed information.***

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Dr. Gloria Evangelina Anzaldúa: NACCS Scholar 2005

By Emma Pérez

The following is the presentation given by Dr. Pérez during the NACCS Scholar Award Luncheon

To talk about someone you love, who has passed on, is never easy. To attempt to honor that someone's memory with words is even more difficult especially when you continue to love this larger than life theorist, writer, activist-scholar named Gloria Anzaldúa. La gran nueva mestiza was a friend, a mentor and an intellectual companion. The day I heard about her passing, I did what many of us did—I immediately chose to believe that it couldn't be true, that someone had made a mistake. But it's true. Gloria has left us. I can think of no one who is more deserving of the NACCS Scholar Award than lesbian feminist Chicana writer, theorist, Dr. Gloria Anzaldúa. Long before she died, she had already surpassed any Chicana or Chicano scholar's reputation and distinction. Today, over two-thousand dissertations, master's degree theses, books and articles cite her published work. It's also important to note that she was awarded her PhD, albeit posthumously, by the University of California, Santa Cruz, Literature Board.

Let me address what was implicit in all her theories—hope for humanity, hope for a better world, hope for “the end of rape, of violence, of war” (Anzaldúa, 1987, 80). Of course, I can't talk about Gloria and her theories without discussing the manner in which she influenced my day-to-day life and my own academic work.

In the preface to *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza*, Gloria Anzaldúa began her powerful work with the following paragraph:

The actual physical borderland that I'm dealing with in this book is the Texas-U.S. Southwest/Mexican border. The psychological borderlands, the sexual borderlands and the spiritual borderlands, are not particular to the Southwest. In fact, the Borderlands are physically present wherever two or more cultures edge each other, where people of different races occupy the same territory, where under, lower, middle and upper classes touch, where the space between two individuals shrinks with intimacy (Anzaldúa, 1987).

In that paragraph, she illustrated complexities that scholars of today continue to debate, reiterate, draw from and upon, extrapolate, deconstruct and reconstruct. In essence, Gloria Anzaldúa, forged a new territory, a new intellectual locale, a new spiritual space, a new psychic and psychological terrain. She created fresh symbols, metaphors, and taxonomies to describe a material world where poverty, racism, homophobia are real problems and where a psychic, sacred inner world is as real as the material, tangible world. For her there were no boundaries. She leapt across borders between the real and imaginary because she knew that one could inhabit both at once. In addition, she theorized what it was like to be a queer of color who inhabited and survived sexual borderlands. Herself a queer of color, una jota, una marimacha de la frontera, she



spoke about the pain and the creativity of living between worlds, of melding the real and metaphoric borderlands.

Gloria's many concepts evolved from an astute awareness of what it meant to live in-between worlds—mestiza consciousness
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Noticias de NACCS is the official newsletter of the National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies. Published four times yearly, with a circulation of 1,000, Noticias de NACCS includes current comments on Chicana and Chicano Studies, news of Chicana and Chicano Scholars, Association activities and more. Noticias de NACCS is sent to all NACCS members, outside subscribers, and selected non-subscribers.

Aida Hurtado Elected as Chair-Elect



Hurtado has been a faculty member at UC Santa Cruz since 1983. She teaches undergraduate courses in Social Psychology, Chicana Feminisms, and Latinos in the Media. She also teaches graduate courses—Feminist Theory, Social Psychology; and Survey Methods. She supervises graduate students in the social psychology graduate program.

Hurtado's M.A., Ph.D. are in Social Psychology from University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, 1977 and 1982, respectively. She completed her B.A. in Psychology and Sociology at Pan American University in 1975. Research interests include equity issues in education, feminist theory, representations of ethnic and racial groups in the media, and social (including ethnic) identity. Hurtado especially examines the effects of subordination on social identity and how group membership characteristics (e.g., ethnicity, race, class, and gender) are derogated in this society and are used to legitimate unequal distribution of power between groups. Using a multidisciplinary approach to research, Hurtado's keen

eye is derived from the social psychological literature on social identity and language attitudes, the methodological literature on surveys, and feminist theory. She uses a variety of methods ranging from ethnography to survey research, which is the core of her training.

Hurtado's roots are in South Texas where she lived and was educated into the world of Chicana/o Studies. Her first research experiences were in folk healing, midwifery and visual sociology. She has been involved in NACCS for over two decades as a presenter, plenary speaker, and as mentor to student presenters.

As with her teaching and research interests, Hurtado is dedicated to further educational equity on many levels. As a feminist, she is committed to making inroads for youth because they have a lot to teach us about how we succeed as teachers, scholars, and members of our communities. She sees a NACCS that is true to its mission of social equity where gender, feminist, and sexuality are as much a core part of our work as educational equity, political participation and socioeconomic justice. Hurtado hopes for NACCS to continue to be a space where Chicana/o students carve out their careers in higher education. She brings experience and dedication to NACCS and views leadership as a means to provide service in the academic organization we can call home.

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ness itself is the road through *nepantla* with *la facultad* while haunted by the shadow beast and coping with the coatlicue state, attempting to befriend it to reach finally yet another intense stage of mestiza consciousness.

I wasn't aware of how profoundly important *nepantla*, that in-between space, was to her way of seeing until I took a walk with her on the beach in Santa Cruz. I can't remember exactly the year; I just know that I was visiting the bay area. It was early evening and she asked me if I wanted to take a walk with her. Since I too love the ocean, I consented and we strolled from her house to the water. The sun began to set and we continued walking along the boardwalk talking about nothing in particular. I often felt like a novice when I was with her and she was the patient loving teacher/friend. As the sun disappeared beyond the horizon, the light began to change. Golden sun and shadows fell away and suddenly a bluish tone absorbed the air. It was neither light nor dark. We could still see in front of us but all objects were encircled with a shadowy, indigo aura. I became somewhat annoyed because my vision tends to deceive me at dusk. She, on the other hand, said, "You see this light, it's light but it's also dark. It's in-between night and day. My favorite time of day. When it's nighttime and daytime at once." I'd never focused on the light at dusk before, other than to want it to hurry up and change from one to the other. I realized at that moment that I had always been uncomfortable with that

ambiguity. Suddenly, as if to see for the first time, I became aware of living between worlds, between seemingly opposites. I became aware of *nepantla*. It was a significant lesson for this student because I would think about this again and again for years to come and as I theorized Chicana/o history, I used her concept of the in-between to make sense of what I call the decolonial imaginary—that space between colonial and post-colonial. For me, Gloria's *nepantla* concept allowed me to think about the liberatory space that Chicanas/os exist in today. Neither colonial nor postcolonial, we reside in that in-between gap where we make sense of our agency.

I know that Gloria attended NACCS conferences in Ypsilanti, Los Angeles and Albuquerque in 1990. Despite having experienced severe homophobia at the Ypsilanti conference, she returned to NACCS because she still had faith in its members. In fact, when she returned to the conference, she stood beside Chicana lesbians when we fought for our lesbian caucus.

Gloria's work influenced a broad community of scholars, organizers, activists and students. The many communities that admire her and continue to be influenced by her work are pleased, I'm sure, that we've elected Dr. Gloria Evangelina Anzaldúa for NACCS 2005 Scholar. Her writings, her theories and her political convictions will continue to help us become better human beings.

The Coordinating Committee Welcomes New Representatives

Tejas Foco

Elizabeth de la Portilla shares an appointment with anthropology and Mexican American Studies, a program under Bicultural-Bilingual Studies at the University of Texas at San Antonio. Professor de la Portilla completed her doctoral studies in cultural anthropology in 2002 and received her Ph.D. from the University of Michigan. In 2001, de la Portilla was the Graduate recipient of the NACCS Frederick A. Cervantes Premio. Her work is interdisciplinary combining ethnobotany, cultural and medical anthropology, with Chicana/o studies focusing on the construction of ethnic identity. Working with several curanderas and a yerbero, de la Portilla seeks to understand and explain why this healing tradition continues to be important in the lives of people from San Antonio and by extension the Texas borderland region.

Chicana Caucus, co-chairs

Elisa Facio is an associate professor of Ethnic Studies and Chicana/Chicano Studies in the Department of Ethnic Studies at the University of Colorado, Boulder. Facio teaches courses on Chicana Feminisms and Knowledges, Critical Issues on Age, Aging, and Generation and Globalization and Gender Violence. She has also taught at the UC Berkeley, Davis and Santa Barbara campuses as a graduate student and Chicana dissertation fellow, as well as lectured at universities and research institutes in Mexico and Cuba. She has published a book on older Mexican women titled *Understanding Older Chicanas: Sociological and Policy Perspectives* (SAGE, 1996) and other articles focusing on Chicana feminism.

Midwest Foco co-representatives

Daniel Enrique Perez is an Assistant Professor of Chicana/o Studies in the Department of Languages and Literatures at the University of Nevada, Reno where he has been instrumental in establishing the new Latino Research Center of UNR. He is a recent graduate of Arizona State University. His Ph.D. dissertation, "Barrio Bodies: Theorizing Chicana/o Popular Culture as Queer," focuses on the intersection of Chicana/o cultural production and queer studies. He is a co-founder of Teatro Bravo, a Phoenix-based Latino theater company. He is also a poet and he has been a member of NACCS since 1999.

Carmelita (Rosie) Castañeda is an Assistant Professor

in the Department of Educational Studies in the College of Education where she prepares pre-service teachers. Dr. Castañeda is also an adjunct faculty and advisory committee member for the Chicana/o Studies Program in the College of Arts and Sciences. Her research interests include: examining instructional and curricular practices that support teaching to diverse populations; exploring how multiple forms of oppression impact educators' experiences in education; investigating experiences of teachers of color in diasporic settings; and using assessment tools and strategies to evaluate ethnic studies programs. Dr. Castañeda is author of *Teaching and Learning in Diverse Classrooms* and is co-author of *Readings for Diversity and Social Justice*. She presents at national and state conferences on multicultural education, democracy, and other issues related to social justice.

Lesbian Caucus

Amelia Maria de la Luz Montes is an assistant professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She holds a Ph.D. from the University of Denver. Her area of scholarship is nineteenth-century American literature specializing in Mexican-American women writers and contemporary U.S. Latina and Chicana writing. She is also a fiction writer. Among her scholarly publications are a co-edited anthology, *Maria Amparo Ruiz de Burton: Critical and Pedagogical Perspectives* (University of Nebraska Press), and *Tortilleras on the Prairie: Latina Lesbians Writing the Midwest* (Journal of Lesbian Studies). Her most recently published short fiction includes "Amigdala" in *River City Journal*, and "R for Ricura," in *Circa 2000: Lesbian Fiction at the Millennium*. Her current writing projects include a critical book on contemporary Latinas writing on the Midwest and a collection of short stories entitled, *While Pilar Tobillo Sleeps*. Dr. Montes was born and raised in Los Angeles.

Northern California

Tomás F. Sandoval, Jr. is an Assistant Professor in New Humanities for Social Justice at CSU Monterey Bay where he coordinates the Chicana/o-Latina/o Studies Program. A native of La Puente California, Dr. Sandoval received his B.A. from Claremont McKenna College and his M.A. and Ph.D. in History from UC Berkeley. In January 2006, he will join the faculty of Pomona College where he will teach courses in Chicana/o-Latina/o History.

THE MIAMI CONFERENCE



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Questions? Write to us at NACCS@naccs.org

NACCS Scholar Announcement

The National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies invites nominations for the 2006 NACCS Scholar Award. The Award was established in 1981 to recognize "life achievement" contributions of scholars to Chicana and Chicano Studies. To ensure the special quality of the NACCS Scholar award, nominees should be scholars whom the majority of the NACCS membership would readily recognize.

This award is not necessarily an annual award. Nominations can only come from a FOCO, Caucus, Local Site Committee, or the National Coordinating Committee--not from individuals. See past Scholar recipients.

The nomination must be limited to a one-page vita and a two-page letter of nomination describing how the candidate meets the criterion set forth. In addition to the letter of nomination, a complete packet must include supporting materials: for example, a selected list of publications, additional letters of support, etc. (Recent NACCS Scholars have had in excess of five additional supporting letters from prominent Chicana/o Studies scholars across the country.)

Nominations must be addressed to the NACCS Scholar Committee, must be submitted in paper form, and must be received on or before October 1.

Nominations received after the deadline or received in electronic format will not be considered.

Nominations from past years may be resubmitted only with additional supporting materials, although earlier supporting materials may also be reused provided they are not more than two years old.

Criteria to be considered for the NACCS Scholar Award include both of the following. Nominating letters should speak to both criteria.

1. *A scholar's history of involvement in the development of Chicana and Chicano studies as a discipline AND/OR an individual's significant contributions to scholarly research and writing on the Mexican population of the United States; AND*
2. *An individual's significant contribution to the NACCS organization.*

The award is presented at the Annual Conference and carries a lifetime membership in NACCS.

Nominations deadline is October 1, 2005.

NO faxes or e-mail are accepted.

Mail your nominee packet to:

NACCS

P.O. Box 720052

San Jose, CA 95172-0052 Questions regarding a packet should be addressed to your FOCO representative, Caucus chair, or the Committee chair.

FREDERICK A. CERVANTES STUDENT PREMIO, 2006

The National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies announces its annual Frederick A. Cervantes Student Premio. NACCS seeks submissions from Undergraduate and graduate scholars. Submissions must contribute to Chicana and Chicano Studies, an interdisciplinary area of study. Papers will be judged on: their contribution to the field of Chicana and Chicano Studies; strength of scholarship (e.g., how well researched and/or theoretically well-developed they are); and originality. Composition and style will also be considered. The Premio carries a monetary honorarium of \$350.00, the opportunity to submit the paper for publication review in the NACCS proceedings, and the opportunity to present the paper at the annual meetings.

COMPETITION REQUIREMENTS

Participants must be enrolled at an institution of higher education and be members of NACCS. To join the association, send in a completed membership form.

FOUR copies of the manuscript must be submitted. One copy should include a cover page with your name, address, telephone number, and institutional affiliation. All copies must indicate UNDERGRADUATE or GRADUATE submission.

The remaining copies must only have a cover page with the title and student designation. Authors must follow appropriate writing manual guidelines, e.g. APA, MLA or Chicago Manual of Style. Papers must be fully referenced, typed, double-spaced and use a 12 pt. Times New Roman font. Manuscript must not exceed 25 pages.

Any submission received that does not meet the above specifications will be automatically disqualified.

Notification will be issued prior to the conference. Awards will be announced during the NACCS 2006 conference. We encourage students to seek faculty mentorship in preparing their papers. Please contact Dr. Julia Curry-Rodriguez, NACCS Executive Director, if you have any questions about the guidelines or how to seek mentorship in preparing your submissions.

**Submissions must be postmarked by
October 15, 2005. Papers postmarked after
this date will be returned.**

Send FOUR copies of your paper to:
NACCS Cervantes Premio
P.O. Box 720052
San Jose, CA 95172-0052

This award is named for Frederick A. Cervantes, one of the first Chicano political scientists and a pioneer in the development of Chicano Studies. The award honors him for his scholarly work and for his commitment to students and student research. Cervantes was a member of NACS [sic] nearly years of the association. Cervantes received his Ph.D. from the University of Washington in 1976. His dissertation was entitled "An interpretation of J.V. Stalin's political thought." Originally from Texas, Cervantes returned to Corpus Christie where he held a faculty position at the University. On March 22, 1986, he was killed by a drunk driver in a motorcycle accident.

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