Hello Cross-Cultural Center family! As many of you are aware, the CCC has had an eventful fall quarter, and we’ve continued our long-standing success by planning and implementing a number of amazing programs and initiatives. All of you - the student organizations, student interns, volunteers, and student assistants – have done an amazing job to start the beginning of the year, and it is reflected in the respect that the CCC has across campus by our partners and community members. Look out for more ways to get involved this quarter. Our Martin Luther King Jr. Symposium and Pictionary Tournament are just a few highlights! I hope you had a great holiday break and good luck as you begin the new year!
For most first year students, the Student Parent Orientation Program (SPOP) is the primary event where incoming students have their first taste of what UCI has to offer on campus. Filled with informational lectures and exciting activities with future fellow classmates, SPOP presents the first taste of the new college experience. While SPOP is a program well deserving of its fame, there are other excellent summer programs hosted by UCI.

One program hosted by the Cross-Cultural Center is called the Summer Multicultural Leadership Institute, also known as SMLI. SMLI is a weekend long summer opportunity that offers a select number of fifty first year students the opportunity to dive in and inundate themselves with cultural issues and political injustices that students encounter in their daily lives. Students also learn to become an element of change on campus as they learn to empower their voice and exercise their leadership skills among their peers. Knowing that there is an application process for participants and only fifty students are selected really shows that those selected to attend this event are passionate about making a difference on campus and utilizing their gifts and talents to benefit the UCI community. During the program, students learn about the different issues on campus and how to combat them. Ultimately, each student had a better understanding of their “true” colors based on their personality and leadership traits. Although professional staff and students run SMLI, the most valued resource for some students are each other. SMLI offers a rare opportunity to really get to know the people around you. To be able to feed off of other people’s passion, to look at issues from a whole new perspective, and to understand someone else’s logic in their decision-making offers the rare opportunity to be in someone else’s shoes. SMLI is a fun experience that not only brings out worthwhile people to learn from each other, but also brings together a family that I look forward to staying in contact with in the foreseeable future.

For more commentary regarding SMLI, please visit: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KolRV-ocs6Q

Written by Roarke Catubig
The All-University Leadership Conference was a weekend-long conference in which motivated students engaged in leadership and team-building workshops and were given a chance to listen to guest speakers and give input on the issues here at UCI.

The Conference hosted workshops in which students of all years discussed with ASUCI the on-going issues on campus. I attended the meeting about the events that the school hosts such as Shocktoberfest and Homecoming. Students agreed to charge fees for Shocktoberfest so that the school can host better-quality artists. We also pointed out that more advertisement is necessary for the events because people are not aware enough of the vibrant occasions that are occurring on campus such as Reggaefest.

The conference presented a program called “Step Up!” which was intended to increase awareness of the bystander effect. Sometimes we are sheep, following the rest of the crowd and ignoring the voice that tells us to take action. This occurred in experiments that involved kidnapping simulations as well as in the brutal beating of a young woman named Kitty Genovese. People simply watched on as these horrific incidences occurred because they were scared of getting hurt or being ridiculed. They did not even indirectly intervene in the violence by running to a nearby police station for help because of this debilitating fear. When we notice that someone we don’t know very well seems to feel depressed, we may decide not to intervene because we might offend or embarrass our peer. However, we have to find the courage inside of us to help and lead others to do the same. If I ever see someone who seems to be struggling, I try to find a way to help out. I don’t necessarily talk to him if I don’t know him very well, but I would point it out to someone who does. I learned from the conference that if we take the time to listen to that little alarm in our heads, we could possibly change a horrible outcome into a good one. After all, the Anteaters co-exist in a community that should foster a supportive and safe environment.

The All-University Conference made my weekend one of the most fulfilling here at UCI. If you are offered the opportunity to go, I highly recommend everyone attending as you’ll gain a stronger sense of connectedness with the community.
The Rainbow Festival and Conference is a series of events that celebrate the existing cultural and ethnic diversity at UCI and also educating around issues of social justice. In partnership with cultural organizations on campus and various UCI departments, Rainbow Festival and conference aims to promote dialogue around issues of diversity and multi-culturalism on campus.

The Rainbow Festival is an annual event orchestrated by the Cross-Cultural Center. The festival took place on Oct. 31st with the theme, ‘Then and Now: A Mosaic of Resistance.’ The theme being closely related to the African Akan saying Sankofa that roughly translates to ‘you must look behind to go forward,’ implying that all should acknowledge, appreciate, and learn the histories of their cultures in order to grow within themselves. Various campus organizations participate by setting up booths along Ring Road to help promote the theme of the conference. This festival celebrates the diversity on the UCI campus through cultural performances, traditional food, and through information given at the different booths.

The festival also invited club organizations to participate in a mural contest that best exemplifies their interpretation of this theme. The winners (listed on the next page) will receive monetary prizes and the 1st place winner will have their mural displayed at the Cross-Cultural Center.

The festival itself was great as energetic students compete for the attention of passers-by. They had many different foods for people to try such as pad thai, hotlinks, and, as always, boba. The organizations sought to educate others on their culture by debasing common misconceptions normally attributed to that culture. The Cross-Cultural Center definitely recommends these events to others because it really demonstrates how proud students are to be able to have a space to recognize and celebrate their cultures.

Written by Faye Hayes
The winners of the Rainbow Festival mural contest are
1st place: Alyansa ng mga Kababayan
2nd place: Hmong Student Association
3rd place: Central American Student Association

The cultural significance behind Alyansa ng mga Kababayan’s mural will be featured on this page.

This mural is a timeline that respects the unsung heroes of the Pilipino community. These inspirational people have dedicated their entire lives to the empowerment of Pilipinos in the Philippines and United States. They are often overlooked and ignored because of their minority status, but they are, in fact, very strong people. So not only does the mural pay homage to these leaders from the past, it also represents the courage and strength the Pilipino community has.

Lapu Lapu (Fusion)
This man was the first National Hero of the Philippines. He kept the Philippines free from Spain. Because of this Lapu Lapu is a symbol of Filipino strength and an example of who Pilipinos were before they were taken over by the Spanish.

Gabriella Silang (PASS)
This heroine is from the 1700s. When her husband was assassinated by the Catholic Church, she carried on the revolution in his stead. Gabriella is the first noted woman Pilipino hero and is a symbol of women empowerment.

Apolimario Mabini (Kaba)
Apolimario was the mind behind the revolution in the 1800s. Despite his physical handicap—he was burdened with polio—he was still able to carry out a successful revolution. Unfortunately Apolimario never got the credit he deserved for freeing the Philippines from Spain.

Philip Veracruz and Larry Itliong (PUSO)
Larry and Philip worked alongside Caesar Chavez to establish the United Farm Workers’ Association. As migrant workers they fought for farmers’ rights. They were responsible for creating the unity clap.
Rainbow Festival Keynote Speaker: Helen Zia

This quarter we had the honor of hosting Helen Zia as our keynote speaker for this conference. She is an award-winning journalist and scholar who have covered Asian American issues and social political movements for decades. She is the author of *Asian American Dreams: The Emergence of an American People*, a finalist for the prestigious Kirlyama Pacific Rim Book Prize. She is one of the most influential Asian Americans of her time. Being involved with student activism when she was in college, she came to discuss student activism then and now.

She reminded us that opportunities come at any time and it is our right to question authority and to question ourselves because being privileged is an unconscious thing. Privileges include being healthy, heterosexual, or educated: things we aren’t aware of holding over others. She said there is no shame or blame in recognizing it because, as quoted from Marian Wright Edelman, “If you don’t like the way the world is, you change it.”

As an activist, Helen Zia captures things that the news doesn’t cover. But she warns us that social change is for the long haul – like a marathon. You’re always running and running, but then you also have to rest. She ended her speech by prompting us that social change is one step at a time, one person at a time – in unity, there is strength.

“Claim your rightful voices. Remember this is your time. Raise a lot of hell.”

- Helen Zia

Written by Shaomay Vong
Interview with Amanda Coats, an Alternative Break Intern

Alternative Break is a weeklong trip during winter break to a community where participants can get involved in environmental projects and learn about the social issues that exist there.

**What do you do as an Alternative Break Intern?**

“It is my job to decide what the trip’s theme is. That includes doing research on different options and discussing what are the issues we want to talk about on the trip. From there, we move on with scheduling with different locations as well as finally interviewing for participants on the trip. Once we are on the trip, we become both participants and facilitators.”

**How much time did you put into this project?**

“To be an intern at the cross, we are required to have 10 hours of work during the week. Oftentimes, I will spend time at home looking up articles and sending emails so really, it is as much time as the trip calls for.”

**Why is Alternative Break important to UCI?**

“It’s important because it creates an experience that you can’t really get through any other opportunity. It is unique in that it takes you out of your comfort zone and exposes participants to a lot of new things. We’ll learn and make new friends, too. Volunteering helps people give back to the community, and the discussions that we will have will help people think about how they perceive themselves and other people around them.”

Volunteering at the Cross-Cultural Center

When I participated in the Cross-Cultural Center’s Summer Multicultural Leadership Institute, I realized that I really wanted to become part of a life-changing organization here at UCI. I applied for a position as a volunteer at the Cross Cultural Center and was happily accepted as part of a total of 12 volunteers.

Being a volunteer requires putting in at least 6 hours of work a week. The time goes by very quickly though. I have spent my time working on publicity for Winter Solstice as well as Alternative Break.

What made me feel as though I were really a part of the Cross was being a co-editor of the Cross’ newsletter. To get this newsletter done, I have to work quickly and efficiently and not be timid when it comes to asking people for input for it. I was able to reach out to the people I have met at SMLI and create stronger connections with my fellow volunteers.

I have also recently started working closely with the Gender Education Initiative by creating posters for their workshops and helping to spread the word about the issues that are important to our students: investing our money, gender equality at work, social media etiquette, and others. To put it simply, being a CCC Volunteer has been an incredibly rewarding and fun thing to do. I feel as though I am really a part of this large university, and I know that opportunities are opening up already. I definitely recommend people to apply to be one next year!
"Be Free"
Written by Howard Diep

Isn’t it a shame when we can’t seem to be happy?
Got many troubles we only see where the whack be
But we never seem to look at the positive
Because we’re too deep in the negative
But take the time to pause and just take a breather
& I promise you that you won’t believe it
All this pain & stress with a clouded mind
Take the time and rewind and start to rise
Above all your fears and grief
Start believing in yourself, believe.
You can make it whether you think you can or not
Keep on fighting and never ever stop
The insecurities you believe you possess
No need to stress, just express your soul
Don't be afraid to be who you are
You’re in control, believe in yourself and reach all your goals
Look, always treat yourself with love and respect
& expect the best, this I confess to you
To stay true to who you are and
Strive your best to make it far in this life
Stay on that grind and always stay positive
No need to trip out, stay big
This one is for you, keep your head up
I believe in you.

Howard Diep is the Programs Coordinator of UCI Southeast Asian Student Association. He is a 3rd year student studying Asian American Studies and Political Science.
The Cross-Cultural Center in collaboration with the International Center hosted our annual Winter Solstice dinner on December 3, 2012 in the Dr. Joseph White Conference room. This event celebrated many global holiday traditions that occur during winter break. These traditions included Al Hijra, Bodhi Day, Hanukkah, Christmas, Diwali, Virgin of Gudalupe, Kwanzaa, and Santa Lucia’s Day. Winter Solstice also served as a place for students from many diverse backgrounds to network and socialize. After learning about the various traditions celebrated from the presentations of the volunteers, students had dinner. This time was dedicated to students having the chance to enjoy open dialogue with others who may or may not share the same holiday traditions. Wonderful music and clips of holiday dances from countries all over the world were played to draw in students into different forms of celebrations held all over the world.

**Winter Quarter Events**

January 21-31 Martin Luther King Symposium
January 28 Community Dinner
February 11 Pictionary Tournament

Visit our website for more information: [www.ccc.uci.edu](http://www.ccc.uci.edu)