The 2014-2015 school year marks the 40th anniversary of the Cross-Cultural Center at UCI. Founded on October 16, 1974 by members of the UCI community, the CCC at UCI was the first of its kind in the UC system and, 40 years later, it still remains dedicated to the same mission: “Creating and maintaining a socially just campus, fostering the cultural identities within our community and providing opportunities for intellectual exchange, student leadership development and community engagement.”

As the first multicultural center in the UC system, we are proud to celebrate this special anniversary and this past quarter has been a wonderful start to a year-long celebration. Just as we started the new school year, we plan to continue on with the same 6 values we at the Cross-Cultural Center have always held in mind: Activism, Social Justice, Community, Education, Empowerment, and Diversity (ASCEED). Each and every event that has taken place at the CCC this quarter has advanced these values and it is our hope that the CCC will continue to serve as a safe space for students on campus to learn from one another, serve their community, and find their own voice to speak out about issues that matter to them.

Table of Contents

Editors-in-Chief
- Diego Quispe Huaman
- Elisa Ladaw
- Ashlee Walker

Guest Writers
- Ola Jimoh
- Michelle Yang
- Janani Venkateswaran

Content
Welcome..........................................1
Community Roots Festival..................2
Aisha Fukushima............................3
Around the State............................3
Interrupting the Cycle.....................4
Representation in Social Media..........5
AcrosstheBridge............................6
Take 15: PB&J.................................7
CCC Interns..................................8 & 9
CCC Staff and Volunteers................10

Written By: Elisa Ladaw and Ashlee Walker
The Community Roots Festival is an annual event organized by the Cross-Cultural Center which invites all multi-cultural clubs and organizations to set up booths on Ring Road to promote themselves and their activities. On November 5th, the Community Roots Festival took place once again with the theme “Uprooting our Stories & Planting Truths” which sought to bring together students by uniting one another through common threads and life stories. At the festival, 21 campus organizations came out to promote their organizations and celebrate cultural diversity and, with items ranging everywhere from tamales and pupusas to beef sticks and pad thai, cuisines from every corner of the world were represented and it’s no wonder why food was the most popular element at the festival.

In addition to the many foods and drinks offered, the CCC held a mural painting contest to encourage creativity amongst the organizations and give them an opportunity to fund raise and win other monetary prizes. Each organization displayed their mural at their booth at the festival and, in addition to receiving a $300 prize, this year’s first place winner, the Hmong Student Association, will also have their beautiful mural (pictured: bottom left) displayed at the Cross-Cultural Center.

For many groups, the festival was also a chance to raise awareness about bigger issues. In particular, CASA, an organization dedicated to changing the lives of less-fortunate children in Central America, sold foods and drinks such as horchata, a traditional drink in Latin America, to raise money to send toys to children in other countries who often have to go without the luxuries many of us take for granted. As member Bryan Hernandez explains, “the Community Roots Festival gives [organizations] an opportunity to increase awareness about issues in Central America and, although it may seem like a small gesture, even a dollar makes a difference.”
Aisha Fukushima

Aisha Fukushima appeared as a guest speaker on Irvine’s campus on Thursday, November 13th. With her bubbly and charismatic personality, Fukushima was able to educate those who attended the event on the background of “raptivism” and the hardships she has gone through and the rewards she has received while fighting her way to her current position in life. Guests learned the depths of the powerful relationship social justice and rap culture has with one another while also learning about the history of rap and other “raptivists” from around the world. To end the night, Aisha shared a single from her global “RAPtivism” album and opened the floor to questions, which she answered with refreshing honesty. Needless to say, the event was a success and Aisha left the guests inspired to become future leaders and eager to make changes within their communities.

Written By: Ola Jimoh

On the weekend of November 14th-16th, the CCC at UC Davis hosted the Queer Asian Pacific Islander American Retreat: a weekend getaway started in 2012 by UC Davis alumni Alex Dang and Trang Tran who wanted to create an intimate, safe space for queer API students by hosting a 3 day retreat which includes workshops, small group meetings, activities aimed at celebrating identities and histories. Events such as this QAPIA retreat are crucial in helping students find others who relate to their experiences and struggles. The welcoming environment inspired all who attended and created an intimate healing experience in which many tears were shed. Safe spaces which celebrate unique identities are incredibly important and it is wonderful that the UC Davis CCC opened their retreat to the QAPIA communities at other California schools.

Written By: Michelle Yang
As a part of the Cultural Wellness Series, Jade Turner, the Student Development Coordinator at the CCC hosted a workshop entitled: The Interrupting the Cycle of Oppression, The Role of Allies as Agents of Change. The workshop aimed to discuss how powerful the role of being an ally is in breaking down oppression within various groups in our society. Many crucial questions were posed such as:

- What exactly is an ally?
- What can I do to better myself as an ally/advocate for social change?
- What are the negative aspects that come with doing what is right and being an ally?

The workshop provided an environment to openly and honestly discuss these questions as well as other various topics, express opinions, and answer questions that were asked by the wonderful guest speakers which included:

Anna Miriam Barragan (Dreamers Coordinator, SOAR),
Deejay Brown (LGBT Resource Center, Assistant Director),
Mike Knox (Director, New Student and Leadership Programs)
Benard Wakoli (founder and director of Yaya Education Trust in Western Kenya)

Each panelist was able to discuss their work as allies and advocates in each program they were involved with and each guest speaker was able to offer their own insight into being allies within different communities which gave the discussion a vast array of examples of the types of oppression that communities face, not only within our own campus communities, but throughout the world as Benard Wakoli explained.

“One of the common mistakes people do is to not do anything.” Being an ally is not an easy thing to do. We face the challenges of being judged for our intentions, whether or not we truly understand the struggles of a group we are not a part of, and being excluded from a group. However, a large part of being an ally is remaining courageous and continuing to stand up for what you believe in, even if that means doing it by yourself. Show courage, patience, and stand up for what is right.
The Representation in Social Media workshop, facilitated by the Cross Cultural Center’s Student Development Coordinator, Jade Turner, and SOAR’s Program Coordinator, Kenneth Oden, took place on November 19th as a part of the Professional Development Series for Student Leaders. The workshop aimed to discuss the impact of social media on the perception of who we are as individuals and communities. The workshop allowed everyone to participate in group activities and discussions to gain a better understanding of the influence that social media and technology truly has on millennials (the generation born from 1989-2002; 2004) and our society at large. One of the activities involved a quiz everyone was asked to fill-out to test their knowledge on different facts relating to social media and, from this quiz, attendees of the workshop learned many surprising statistics. For example, 2 billion pieces of content are shared through social media each month, 83% of all internet users who use social networking are 19-29 years old and, even more astounding, more than half of the entire human race is under 30 years old. The workshop really put into perspective the degree to which millennials rely on social media and technology which is so ingrained within their culture and everyday lives.

Beyond the fascinating statistics, the take-home message for the workshop was: How do we use social media? How are we portraying ourselves as individuals through social media platforms? And how is the media portraying us? Topics of whether or not we are the same people that we paint ourselves to be on social media, why we choose certain things to be on our social media sites, and the types of things that the media chooses to share from our own sites that may paint an inaccurate picture of who we truly are were all key points the workshop touched on and encouraged participants to think about. Lastly, the workshop encouraged the evaluation of how social media affects our society and how we can each use social media as a platform for change.

Written By: Elisa Ladaw
On the afternoon of Friday, November 21st, over 80 students came to the Dr. White Room at the CCC to partake in the Across the Bridge Diversity Dialogue Series, a series dedicated to increasing the communication amongst students about their rich cultural backgrounds. This year, the event chose to focus on cultural holidays and celebrations and, while breaking bread over some pizza, students conversed about the celebrations they take part in around the world. On arrival, students were divided into assigned tables with 8-10 people ranging from undergrads to graduate students to encourage them to talk with new people from numerous cultural backgrounds in order to have a more diverse discussion. Having everyone fully engaged and participating in the event was highly motivating and, with such a magnificent turn out, the Diversity Dialogue Series was a wonderful way to kick off the holiday season.

Written By: Janani Venkateswaran
On Tuesday, November 25, the second annual “Take 15” sandwich-making event was held through the collaborative effort and sponsorship of the CCC’s Community Action Series, Students Affairs, UCI Dalai Lama Scholars program, 50 for 50 Volunteer Program, UCI Hospitality & Dining, as well as the Center for Living Peace. In the spirit of Thanksgiving week, the event welcomed voluntary participants to take approximately 15 minutes of their time to aid those hungry and or homeless by making sandwiches that would then be delivered to communities in need. Regarding the purpose of the event, Stephanie Fernandez, the CCC intern responsible for helping coordinate the event, said, “We sometimes forget to realize that there is a large proportion of hungry and homeless in the Orange County area. We thought it was important for students to understand that many people in our community do not know where their next meal will come from.” This year “Take 15” received additional support not only from their previous sponsors but also from the Center for Living Peace, a non-profit organization that provided funding for necessary materials. Among others sponsors were the UCI Hospitality & Dining, which donated more than half the food that was needed for the event, as well as the 50 for 50 Volunteer Program.

“I think we all need to start doing the little things that make a difference. I was happy to see that even before the event started there were already a lot of people lined up, ready to make sandwiches.”

- Leticia Cruz

Written By: Diego Quispe Huaman
2014-2015
Cross-Cultural Center

INTERNS

Alejandro Ramirez
3rd Year - Alternative Break

Caroline Truong
3rd Year - Alternative Break

Hana Bary
4th Year - Alternative Break

Karen Yu
4th Year - Alternative Break

Byron Barahona
3rd Year - Community Outreach & Programs

Yazleen Alonso
2nd Year - Community Outreach & Programs

Karina Cardenas
4th Year - Community Outreach & Programs
Jennifer Le
4th Year - Community Outreach & Programs

Maritza Duran
5th Year - R.E.A.C.H. Co-Coordinator

Gerardo Gandarilla
3rd Year - Personal Development

Rosemary Gomez
3rd Year - R.E.A.C.H. Co-Coordinator

Victoria Lee
2nd Year - Outreach & Marketing Development

Stephanie Fernandez
4th Year - Service Leadership

Tracey Oyenacho
4th Year - Umbrella Organizations Liaison

Sandra Rangel
4th Year - Volunteer Coordinator
CCC Staff

Kevin Huie
Director

Darlene Esparza
Assistant Director

Denise Vélez
Program Coordinator

Jade Turner
Student Development Coordinator

Anna Capinpin
Administrative Specialist

CCC Volunteers

Look out for these events in January:

Applications for Alternative Break!
Check out the Cross Cultural Center Facebook page and website for more information soon!
www.ccc.uci.edu/

UCI Community and Public Service Fair!
January 21st at the Student Center

CCC 40th Anniversary Celebration!
January 30th - More info and RSVP here: www.ccc.uci.edu/40th/
Come celebrate! It’ll be a night of student performances, a great dinner, notable speakers, and even more fun.

From left to right:
Diego Quispe Huaman, Janani Venkateswaran, Elisa Ladaw, Ashlee Walker, Sandra Rangel (Volunteer Coordinator), Jenny Tseng, Ola Jimoh, Leticia Cruz, Kara Rivera, and Bryan Hernandez.
Not Pictured: Michelle Yang