

Undergraduate Research Newsletter

Summer Edition (Issue 7), July 6, 2009

July 8, 12:00 pm
Samuelson Pavillion

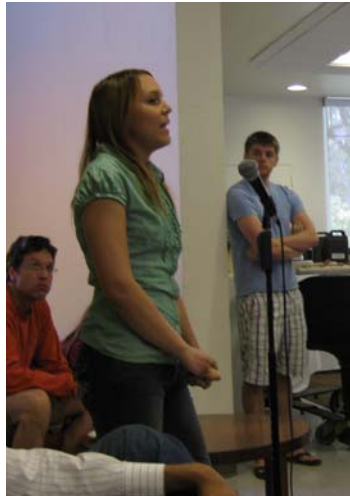
Steven Peckman, Associate Director of the UCLA Broad Stem Cell Research Center

Samuelson Pavillion, includes lunch!



Dr. Steven Peckman's presentation will focus on human research ethics. Prior to joining the Broad Stem Cell Research Center, he was the Associate Director for Human Subject Research for more than 10 years in the UCLA's Office for Protection of Research Subjects. Dr. Peckman has been a keynote speaker on human research issues at international conferences on topics such as: the ethical principles of biomedical and social-behavioral human research, ethical and legal requirements for research with human embryonic stem cells, human biological and genetic material, clinical trials and adverse event reporting, informed consent, international research, and vulnerable subject populations.

Mexican Repatriation



"Approximately 1/3 of the Mexican community in Los Angeles returned to Mexico during the [1930s]," explained Veronica Toledo ('10 History). While taking Professor Lynn Dumenil's Immigration class last year, she became interested in researching California's repatriation campaign, focusing specifically on how the media shaped this issue. During the Great Depression, the government was looking for ways to "relieve financial pressures" and began a federal campaign intending to deport all illegal immigrants. In California, this campaign especially targeted people of Mexican descent, even those who were American citizens. By looking through letters from that time, Toledo found how California officials thought scare tactics, in particular, were necessary for the campaign.

The media contributed to the repatriation campaign in part by publicizing deportation events and embellishing details of what was being done to Mexicans. Combined with threats of deportation, this was persuasive in convincing people to choose to leave the country. The Los Angeles Citizens Committee formed in support of repatriation, complaining that illegal immigrants were stealing American jobs (an argument heard today as well). The themes of the campaign were to tell Mexicans that there was nothing for them here, that no one would give them a job and that they were better off going back to Mexico.

Not all groups were in support of the scare tactics used in the campaign. The California Chamber of Commerce sent letters to the Mexican Government to try to smooth relations. The Chamber wrote to the Citizens Committee to tell them that their actions would hurt trade and basically make America look bad to its neighbors. It is not clear how much of this intervention was due to actual concern about the terrorization of the Mexican population and how much was self-interest.

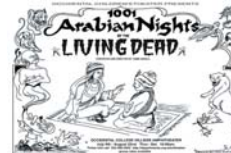
In looking through media sources, Toledo has found it interesting to compare the reporting in English and Spanish sources because they reveal very different takes on the issue.

Throughout this time, very few people were actually deported. The majority of those who left voluntarily repatriated. In some instances, whole families left, because it wasn't explained that children born in the US could remain as citizens. This made it more difficult for them to return later.

Toledo's project provides a relevant warning, she emphasizes, "We're in bad economic times and having immigration debates." The similarities are striking. "This project is important as a caution to us about the way political rhetoric is used," she explained.

Once she graduates, Toledo intends to take a year off to work and get experience before attending law school.

Weekend Ideas



More events at departments.oxy.edu/urc/about/calendar.htm

July 9-19, 2009

Outfest Film Festival
Various venues in Hollywood and Downtown LA
Learn more at their website:
www.outfest.org/fest2009/

July 9-August 22, 2009
10:00 am

Occidental Children's Theater
Thursday-Saturday at Hillside Amphitheater
\$8 Tickets
http://departments.oxy.edu/theater/Oxy_childrens_theater.html

July 10, 2009

Talent Show
Contact ResLife for details

July 11, 2009

Music Performance at the Getty Museum
Contact ResLife for details

July 12, 2009

Raging Waters
Contact ResLife for details

July 12, 2009
12:00-10:00 pm

Bastille Day Los Angeles
At Elysian Park, next to Dodger Stadium
Food, Performances, Contests!
Entrance Fee \$5
www.bastilledaylosangeles.com

Newsletter Editor: Miranda Stewart