

Labor Education NEWS

UCLA CENTER FOR LABOR RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

SUMMER/FALL 2005

UCLA Labor Center Budget Slashed by Two-thirds

On July 11, 2005, the governor vetoed all \$3.8 million of funding for University of California labor studies. While the overall research budget for the university was increased by \$75 million, the only program the governor singled out for elimination was labor studies.

Although the majority of the members of the California state legislature subsequently asked the University of California to provide funding for UC labor studies, the university has chosen to fund only one-third of the budget for UCLA labor studies and two-thirds of the budget for UC Berkeley labor studies. The university has made no commitment for funding for the next fiscal year.

The governor's decision is a threat to working people's access to the research and educational resources within California's premier public university—especially as labor studies receives only a tiny fraction of the funding provided for University of California programs that address corporate research and education interests.

The governor's decision is also a threat to academic freedom. Without any review, justification, or explanation, the governor has reached into the University of California budget to single



out a program for elimination. This sets a dangerous precedent by allowing a governor to defund any university programs that he does not support.

The cutbacks have already had a damaging impact on the staff and programs of the UCLA Labor Center. In spite of these reductions, the Labor Center is still committed to ensure quality research and educational programs throughout the current fiscal year and will work hard with faculty, students, and the community at large to restore funds for the coming fiscal year.

To make a donation to the Labor Center, to subscribe to the Labor Center listservs, or for more information on the Labor Center's activities, go to <http://www.labor.ucla.edu>.

SAVE THE DATE!

Forum on the Future of the
Labor Movement

Tuesday, November 22

12:00–2:00 p.m.

UCLA Downtown Labor Center

4:00–6:00 p.m.

UCLA Faculty Center

Featuring:

Anna Burger, Chair, Change to
Win Federation

Stewart Acuff, Organizing
Director, AFL-CIO

In This Issue

LEADERSHIP
SCHOOLS
2006



IS WAL-MART
GOOD FOR
AMERICA?



SUMMER
INSTITUTE FOR
UNION WOMEN



LABOR SUMMER
INTERNSHIP
PROJECT



LOSH
UPDATE



African American Leadership School 2005

“Celebrating Juneteenth with a purpose” was more than a theme for the 2005 UCLA African American Leadership school; it was a reality. “What I experienced within this group were the rewards of self-empowerment and the need for my participation in the union. That is what I will take back with me,” said Elarryo Bolden, a participant in the school and leader at SEIU Local 99. Mr. Bolden was one of twenty-seven participants in the four-day leadership school, which focused on labor and social movement history, leadership development training, and how to turn strategy into action.

“I plan to survey my coworkers and target workers eighteen–thirty and get them more involved in the union,” said Vivan Johnson, a member of SEIU Local 660. Coordinated by Labor Center Project Director Lola Smallwood Cuevas, the leadership school was held June 15–19 at the Downtown Labor Center. From firefighters, port workers, and city and county employees to home care providers, security officers, and electricians, the school brought emerging leaders together to recommit themselves to improving the lives of working people by learning from the best leaders in the country, including

Rev. James Lawson Jr., Bill Lucy, Dr. Maulana Karenga, Anthony Thigpen, AFSCME Local District Council



President Alice Goff, Homecare Council Director Loretta Stevens, and many others.

For information on the 2006 leadership school, contact Lola Smallwood Cuevas at 213/480-4155 x210.

Asian American Leadership Conference 2005

On June 11, 2005, over fifty participants attended the Asian American Leadership Conference at the Downtown Labor Center, sponsored by the UCLA Labor Center and the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance. The conference reached out to newly organized Asian American workers especially in the home care and health care industries and in the public sector. Bilingual interpretation in Chinese was offered to the many immigrant workers in attendance.

The conference included a timeline featuring an Asian



Images from Labor Women of Quynh Nguyen and Karla Zombro.



American labor and immigration history and an interactive session where participants shared stories of their family histories. A panel on Asian American political power featured Assemblymember

Judy Chu, Community College Board of Trustee Warren Furutani, and Monterey Park Assemblymember Mike Eng.

The conference also featured a special screening of *Labor Women* and a panel presentation with two of the Asian women organizers featured in the documentary, Quynh Nguyen and Karla Zombro, both former UCLA students.

Is Wal-Mart Good for America?

On June 4, 2005, over five hundred people attended a conference entitled, "Is Wal-Mart Good for America?" on the UCLA campus, organized by the Labor Center. The conference was the culmination of a six-month Community Scholars class during which a dozen labor and



Senator Gloria Romero speaks at the Wal-mart conference hosted by the UCLA Labor Center.

community leaders worked with UCLA graduate students on a research project to determine the impact of Wal-Mart on the national and international economy. Speakers from China, Canada, and Mexico all spoke on the global impact of Wal-Mart on their countries. Senator Gloria Romero discussed a recent campaign to prevent Wal-Mart from opening a store in Rosemead, and Assemblymember Jerome Horton reported on the successful campaign to stop the opening of a Wal-Mart store in Inglewood. Senator Richard Alarcón discussed the Wal-Martization of the economy and the growing problems of poverty in California.

During the noontime session, there was a lively debate on the topic, "Is Wal-Mart Good for America?," featuring both pro-Wal-Mart and anti-Wal-Mart speakers. The panelists included Professor Nelson Lichtenstein from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and Jonathan Tasini from the Economic Futures Group. KNX Reporter Luis Torres moderated the panel.

The event also featured informational workshops that provided participants with many different avenues

to learn more about Wal-Mart and how they could get involved with organizing campaigns. The morning session included a series of workshops on issues of race and gender relating to Wal-Mart, Wal-Mart's history with labor issues, its relationship with the ports and the trucking industry, and its impact on the global economy.

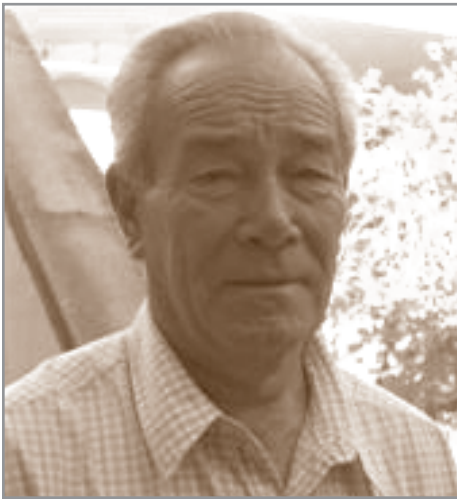
The afternoon workshops gave participants the opportunity to participate in an analysis of Wal-Mart to identify its strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. Participants took part in a strategic workshop on analyzing and discussing the different campaigns in Southern California against Wal-Mart, and the session ended with a workshop on building an organizing campaign strategy against Wal-Mart.

The conference concluded with a dynamic and energetic panel on shifting the political terrain and building a long-term coalition to focus on Wal-Mart. The speakers included David Sickler, longtime labor leader and organizer of the Coors boycott campaign; Kate O'Hara from Greenbelt Alliance; Dolores Huerta from the United Farm Workers; and other labor and community leaders.

The Community Scholars also prepared a special poster on the national and international impact of Wal-Mart, which was distributed to all of the participants. For more information, contact Victor Narro at 213/480-4155 x209.



News from LOSH



Hazardous Waste/HazMat Project Coordinator Bill Hatch.

UCLA-LOSH has received funds from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences to continue leading a five-university consortium that trains workers who handle hazardous materials and clean up hazardous waste. Hazardous Waste/HazMat Project Coordinator Bill Hatch will lead the project: "With this grant, we will initiate a new training program with workers at West Coast ports to address inadequate security and prevent exposure to hazardous materials." Hatch brings to UCLA-LOSH almost thirty years of experience with the Hazmat program of the Fire Department and the Firefighters Union. He worked with the LOSH program in the mid-'90s and more recently as a consultant instructor.

This summer, UCLA-LOSH participated in the national Occupational Health Intern Program supervising interns at two L.A. sites to investigate workload, staffing, and health among hotel room cleaners (with UNITE HERE) and hazards facing day laborers (with IDEPSCA). The students interviewed workers, wrote reports and brochures summarizing their findings, and visited Sacramento legislators to discuss the need for stronger regulations to protect against workplace hazards. Daniela Conde reflected on her experience: "I want to go to law school to focus on labor and immigrant worker rights; now I understand how worker health and safety is a critical part of that." And Gabe Rivera commented:



LOSH interns, Gabriel Rivera (UCI School of Medicine), Daniela Conde (UCLA undergraduate), Laura Podolsky (UCLA School of Public Health), and Mona Lee (UCLA School of Urban Planning).

"Work is such a big part of life—I now see that I have to ask patients about their jobs to understand how working conditions affect their health."

For information on the UCLA-LOSH Program, go to <http://www.losch.ucla.edu> or call 310/794-5964.

Summer Institute for Union Women

By Gillian Claycomb

On July 6, Erica Grove and I flew to Portland, Oregon, to participate in the Twenty-Fourth Annual Western Regional Summer Institute for Union Women, hosted by the Labor Education and Research Centers of the University of Oregon and Evergreen State College. UCLA Labor Center Project Director June McMahon and SoCalCOSH Coordinator Suzan Luu joined us as workshop instructors at the conference.

The variety of classes provided a safe space for critical dialogue and personal growth as well as giving us specific strategies for waging the struggles that are important to working women. I attended the "Organizing for Change" workshop, where we learned the importance of union density, essential elements of a successful campaign plan, and discussed how to maximize women's organizing strength within the union movement.

The evening plenaries gave us background on specific issues such as the AFL-CIO split and the Wal-Mart fight, with rousing speakers such as Elaine Bernard from Harvard and Madeline Janis-Aparicio of LAANE.



Erica Grove, June McMahon, Suzan Luu, and Gillian Claycomb.

2005 Labor Center Banquet

On June 25, a capacity crowd of six hundred people attended the annual UCLA Labor Center Banquet at the Center at Cathedral Plaza. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and former Mayor James Hahn began the festivities with a welcome from the City. The four honorees were Senator Gloria Romero, Assemblymember Karen Bass, Eliseo Medina of SEIU, and Marvin Kropke of IBEW Local 11.

A special video presentations honored the late Miguel Contreras of the L.A. County Federation of Labor, and another featured the Labor Center's recent work. Music was provided by the L.A. Labor Band. A special commemorative poster was designed for the evening

and distributed to all of the guests.



Honorees, Senator Gloria Romero and Marvin Kropke, IBEW.



Mayor Villaraigosa kicks off the 2005 Labor Center fund-raiser, held June 5.

Over \$100,000 was raised to support the activities and programs of the UCLA Labor Center.

Labor Summer Internship Program 2005

This summer, the UCLA Labor Center once again held its annual Labor Summer Internship Program (LSIP), a program responsible for placing many of its graduates in full-time positions at unions and community-based organizations throughout Southern California. This year for the first time, the Labor Center implemented a hybrid

model with graduate students, law students, and undergraduates all integrated into the same program.

The undergraduate students attended the "Institute on Labor and the Workplace in Los Angeles," a ten-unit course that included a weekly, all-day seminar for all the students and a fifteen-hour internship placement. Workshops included a Los Angeles labor history walking tour, a collective bargaining institute, a critical discussion and analysis on the current state of the labor movement and the challenges facing it today, and a workshop on issues of race in the labor movement.

The undergraduate student placements included the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles, SEIU Local 1877, UNITE HERE Local 11, L.A. County Federation of Labor, and Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy. Six graduate students were placed in full-time internships at SEIU Local 347, SEIU Local 1877, Maintenance Cooperation Trust Fund, Community Coalition, and Pipe Trades District Council 16. In addition, the Downtown Labor Center hosted four public interest law fellows.



Labor Center Project Director June McMahon leads a workshop for the LSIP interns.

Media Project Update

The UCLA Institute of Industrial Relations (IIR) in partnership with the UCLA Labor Center recently launched a study examining public perceptions of the labor movement and how people frame their understanding of working families and their issues. “Current polling data suggests there is wide support for unions and efforts to improve the lives of working people,” says Gary Blasi, IIR associate director. “However, the same data indicates that there is widespread misunderstanding and a general lack of information about many issues. This is not too surprising, given the amount of money that has been spent in anti-union communications efforts over the years.”

The research comes as the issue of message framing and how it connects and very often drives politics, the media, and society at large gains increasing attention. “Every group from the Democratic Party to Christian conservatives is very aware of the importance of message and its impact on the masses,” said Lola Smallwood Cuevas, project director at the Labor Center. “In Los Angeles, it will be very interesting to see how effective this active labor movement has been in really connecting with the public about working people’s issues.”

It is clear that broad support for working people’s issues depends heavily on what framing methods are used. But the question remains: Does the L.A. public—made up of mostly nonunion members—get it or even care? Coordinators of the project hope to highlight the results of the project at a conference this winter.

For more information, contact Lola Smallwood Cuevas at 213/480-4155 x210.

Social Change Across the Borders

Frente Indígena de Organizaciones Binacionales (FIOB) is a community-based organization composed of a coalition of organizations, communities, and individuals of indigenous origin. Founded in 1991 in Los Angeles, its members are in Oaxaca, Baja California Norte, and California. As part of its work with the Social Change Across the Borders Institute at UCLA, the Labor Center

FIOB, partnered with Saul Sarabia, director of the UCLA Social Change Across Borders Institute, to form an organizing project for indigenous communities.

The goal of this project was to build a core group of Oaxacan leaders to participate in skills development workshops on outreach and time management techniques, agenda development, media manage-



FIOB members work the “puzzle,” a popular education solidarity-building exercise.

is working with FIOB to develop an office in Los Angeles. The project is funded by a UCLA in L.A. Partnership Grant with the UCLA Center for the Study of Urban Poverty.

In Los Angeles, the Zapotec indigenous migrant communities are well organized within their hometown associations working to improve conditions in their hometowns of origin, such as bringing paved roads, electricity, and water, among other basic needs, to their communities. Odilia Romero, the local coordinator of the

ment, and public speaking, as well as discussions on globalization and decolonization theory. The long-term goal is to empower the indigenous communities and promote their self-determination by encouraging their organization and mobilization at a binational level.

The project will be producing a handbook to serve as a resource guide for other emerging hometown associations.

For more information, contact Victor Narro at 213/480-4155 x209.

Friends in High Places



Larry Frank has been appointed deputy mayor of Neighborhood and Community Services within the new administration of Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa. This is an incredible honor and an acknowledgement of Frank's many decades of public service and community organizing.

Frank served as staff director of the UCLA Labor Center for three years. Previously he was an attorney for John Brown and Associates and has worked extensively on prison reform and criminal justice issues.

His union career included work as an organizer for the United Farm Workers, the Communications Workers, and the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union. Frank was also a founder and leader of the Jobs with Peace campaign, a community-based political organization that developed a progressive precinct operation in Los Angeles.

On August 5, nearly two hundred people attended a reception at the Downtown Labor Center honoring the new deputy mayor. Speakers included UFW Cofounder Dolores Huerta, Assemblymember Judy Chu, Cristina Vazquez from UNITE, and UCLA Labor Center Advisory Committee Chair David Sickler.

On July 18, Martin Ludlow made history by becoming the first African American to lead the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, with 345 affiliated local unions representing more than 800,000 union members in Los Angeles County.

Ludlow previously was political director of the L.A. County Federation of Labor and worked closely with Miguel Contreras. He was also elected to the Los Angeles City Council in 2003 and voluntarily



resigned from his position in order to assume the position of Executive Secretary-Treasurer.

Martin Ludlow is a longtime friend of the UCLA Labor Center and organized the Labor Center's first African American Leadership School in 2002.

Along with his extensive background in electoral politics, Ludlow was also western region political director for SEIU, deputy director of the L.A. Conservation Corps, and field director for the Christopher Commission Police Reform-Charter Amendment Campaign.

David Sickler, longtime chair of the UCLA Labor Center advisory committee, has joined the Antonio Villaraigosa administration as public works director for the City of Los Angeles. Sickler is leaving the State Building and Construction Trades Council of California after forty years of service to the labor movement. He has served as the chair of the L.A./Orange County Organizing Committee, and he is former regional director of the AFL-CIO.

A former Coors employee, when Brewery Workers Local 366 went on strike against the Adolph Coors Company in 1977, Sickler was appointed national director of the Coors boycott. In *Citizen Coors: An American Dynasty*, Dan Baum writes, "...if Bill [Coors] could go back in time to change one thing, it would probably be to prevent the brewery from hiring David Sickler."

Sickler founded the AFL-CIO's California Immigrant Workers' Association and has been a national leader in organizing immigrant workers.





UCLA Center for Labor Research and Education
Box 951478
Los Angeles CA 90095-1478

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
U.C.L.A.

UCLA Center for Labor Research and Education 310/794-5983, fax 310/794-6410, <http://www.labor.ucla.edu>

Labor Center Advisory Committee

Cherie Brokaw
CWA

Julie Butcher
SEIU Local 347

Velma Butler
AFT Local 1521
Staff Guild

David Campbell
PACE! Local 8-675

Teresa Conrow
AFT Local 1521

Katarina del Valle
Thompson
SEIU Local 660

Alex Dobrin
PIPE Trust

María Elena Durazo
UNITE HERE
Local 11

Micheal Hartigan
CWA Local 9400

Rickman Jackson
SEIU Local 434B

Patrick McGinn
Southwest Regional
Council of
Carpenters

Mike Miller
UAW Region 5

Hugo Morris
Teamsters Retirees

Joel Ochoa
IAM Local 1484

Kathy Ochoa
SEIU Local 660

Leonard Potash
AFSCME District
Council 36

Ed Rendon
Teamsters Joint
Council 42

Nancy Romero
IBEW Local 18

Elena Roschdi
UNITE HERE Western
States Regional
Joint Board

Brian Rudiger
AFSCME Local 3299

Michael Schaffer
AFSCME Retirees
Chapter 36

Judy Serlin
SEIU Local 121RN

David Sickler
Board of Public Works

Keith Skotnes
UAW Region 5

Richard Slawson
LA-OC Building and
Construction Trades

Robert Smith
Painters District
Council 36

Loretta Stevens
SEIU Western Region

Michael Straeter
UFCW Local 1442

Manuel Valenzuela
Teamsters

Cristina Vazquez
UNITE HERE Western
States Regional
Joint Board

Jim Walker
California School
Employees Association

Henry Walton
CSEA-SEIU Local 1000

Goetz Wolff
UCLA School of
Public Policy

David Young
Writers Guild

Staff

Kent Wong,
Director

June McMahon,
Coordinator of Labor
Programs

Victor Narro,
Project Director

**Lola Smallwood
Cuevas,**
Project Director

Julie Monroe,
Editorial Specialist

Alexandra Topete,
Administrative Assistant

Erica Grove,
Administrative Assistant

Gillian Claycomb,
Administrative Assistant

This issue of LABOR
EDUCATION NEWS
was edited by Julie
Monroe