



Labor Education NEWS

UCLA CENTER FOR LABOR RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

SUMMER/FALL 2007

Labor Center Wins Budget Battle

The UCLA Labor Center has won complete restoration of our funds for the 2007–2008 year. On August 24, the California budget was finally signed by the governor after a long delay caused by Senate Republicans. During the final weeks of the budget debate, a few Senate Republicans had singled out UC Labor Studies for elimination, but their proposal failed.

For the fourth year in a row, the governor called for the elimination of all funding for the UC Labor Studies Programs, including the UCLA Labor Center. Fabian Nuñez, the Speaker of the California State Assembly, has been a major champion of the Labor Centers at UC Berkeley and UCLA. In January 2007, he proposed the renaming of our statewide program in honor of Miguel Contreras, a recommendation that was unanimously adopted by the UC Regents. Hopefully, this will help to stabilize funding for

labor studies and secure a long and healthy future for the UCLA and UC Berkeley Labor Centers in the years to come.



Labor Center Director Kent Wong and 2007 banquet honorees Senator Sheila Kuehl and UFW Cofounder Dolores Huerta

The Labor Center hosted its largest fund-raiser banquet to date on June 14, attended by more than six

hundred labor and community supporters of Los Angeles.

This year's honorees were Assembly Speaker Fabian Nuñez, State Senator Sheila Kuehl, and Art Pulaski of the California Labor Federation. María Elena Durazo of the L.A. County Federation of Labor, UFW Cofounder Dolores Huerta, and Tyrone Freeman of SEIU 6434 were also speakers at the event.

Ernesto, a UCLA undocumented student, received a standing ovation from the audience after he shared his story of the challenges and obstacles facing undocumented students at UCLA and at other colleges and universities across the country. He is working with a group of student interns at the UCLA Labor Center to publish the first book on the experiences of undocumented students.

All of the participants took home a special poster that was commissioned for the event, celebrating this year's May Day march for immigrants' rights and linking the social justice movements that have been led by the honorees.

In This Issue

HEARING ON UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS



LABOR AND IMMIGRATION FORUM



LEADERSHIP SCHOOLS 07



SOLIDARITY IN SHANGHAI



NONPROFIT CAREER FAIR



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

Hearing on Undocumented College Students

The UCLA Labor Center and IDEAS, a UCLA student organization, organized a hearing and conference on undocumented college students to learn directly from the students about the impact of proposed legislation on their lives. On May 19, nearly three hundred people attended and heard the testimonies of students who described the formidable obstacles facing undocumented students and their hope that comprehensive immigration reform will allow them to fully contribute to American society.

State Senator Gilbert Cedillo chaired the proceeding, and the other members of the panel were Senator Gloria Romero and Assemblymembers Mike Eng, Kevin De León, and Anthony Portantino. The focus of the hearing was the pending legislation in Congress (Dream Act) and the California State Assembly (SB 165 California Dream Act) that would provide a just and legal remedy for the thousands of undocumented students who graduate each year from California high schools.

After the hearing, the conference and workshop sessions began with remarks from L.A. County Federation of Labor Secretary-Treasurer María Elena Durazo, Angélica Salas from the Coalition for Humane Immigrants Rights

of Los Angeles, and Josh Bernstein from the National Immigration Law Center. Participants also attended working sessions on resources for AB 540 students, pending legislation and education campaigns, and outreach and education.

The Labor Center will release a student publication this winter detailing the experiences of undocumented college students.



Senators Gilbert Cedillo and Gloria Romero, and Assemblymembers Mike Eng, Kevin De León, and Anthony Portantino

Labor Summer Internship Program 2007

The UCLA Labor Center hosted the sixth annual Labor Summer Internship Program (LSIP) June 25–August 17. Fifteen undergraduate and eleven graduate students attended weekly classes and interned with unions and worker organizations.

LSIP offers students a unique opportunity to learn more about the history of the labor movement specifically focusing on Los Angeles. Guest speakers, films, and

lectures offer insight on a diverse range of topics discussed each session, including race and gender, globalization, and immigrant rights. At the same time, student interns have the chance to make their mark on the movement as they work with local labor, immigrant worker, and housing organizations. Graduate students put their research skills to use by working with organizations on specific projects.

We would like to thank the following organizations for their participation and commitment to young workers: Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, UNITE HERE Locals 11 and 52, Koreatown Immigrant Workers Alliance, LAANE, SEIU International, SEIU Locals 721, 6434, and 1877, SOULA 2006, ENLACE, AFSCME Local 3299, IUPAT Local 36, IDEPSCA, Maintenance Cooperation Trust Fund, Los Angeles Poverty Department, South Asian Network, Collective Space, National Day Laborer Organizing Network, and Community Coalition.

If you are interested in hosting a student intern in the future, please contact Gaspar Rivera-Salgado at 310/206-3910 or grsalgado@irle.ucla.edu.



LSIP graduates Gustavo Guerra Vasquez, LA County Commission on Human Relations; Cristina Navoa, UNITE HERE Local 52; Julia Plascencia, L.A. Coalition to End Homelessness; and Benjamin Cortez, SEIU International

Labor and Immigration Forum



María Elena Durazo

The UCLA Labor Center hosted a labor and immigration forum at the Downtown Labor Center about the current debate on immigration reform and to highlight the dynamic immigrant worker organizing campaigns taking place throughout Los Angeles.

On June 6, the forum began with UCLA Labor Center Director Kent Wong, who presented a framework of the immigration reform debate and labor's role in the fight to organize immigrant workers. María Elena Durazo, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, presented an overview of the campaign for humane comprehensive immigration reform and its impact on the labor movement.

Next was a panel presentation with William Smart from the Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy and the Clean and Safe Ports Campaign, who talked about the efforts of the Teamsters Local 952 to organize

the thousands of mostly Latino port truckers at the Los Angeles and Long Beach ports. Ron Reese from SEIU Local 1877 discussed the recent victory of the security officers organizing campaign that led to the creation of the Security Officers Union of Los Angeles (SOULA). Paulina Gonzalez from UNITE HERE talked about the Hotel Worker Rising Campaign at the LAX hotels. And Mike Skerrit from the Ironworkers Local 433 discussed organizing initiatives in the construction industry.



William Smart

Three breakout sessions followed: on the guest worker program, Home Depot and day laborers, and new strategies for organizing. The reports from these dynamic sessions led into a lunch presentation by David Bacon, a longtime labor activist, writer, and photographer. Each participant received an organizer's toolkit addressing immigration and immigrant worker issues, including know-your-rights materials from the National Immigration Law Center and the National Employment Law Center.

The week following the forum, the UCLA Labor Center joined a coalition of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, UNITE HERE, and immigrant rights groups in launching the Dreams Across America Tour (DAAT). DAAT was a nationwide journey via train to dispel myths, provide facts, and share personal stories about the need for just and humane immigration reform in this country. In eight days via ten cities, the tour brought together one hundred diverse "dreamers" from throughout the country. The dreamers completed their journey in Washington DC, where they shared their compelling stories with congressional leaders. To read their stories, go to the Dreams Across America web site.

For information on workshops for your organization, call Victor Narro at 213/480-4155 x209.



David Bacon

Labor Center Leadership Schools

In addition to research, student internships, and labor education programs, the UCLA Labor Center also implements a series of innovative leadership programs throughout the year. These programs draw broad participation from labor and community organizations to train and strengthen the next wave of leadership in the social and economic justice movements. Each school provides worker-leaders and organizers a unique opportunity to understand and analyze the labor movement, the challenges to workplace justice, and the social issues impacting the movement. The schools also help participants develop organizing strategies to overcome these challenges utilizing popular education methodologies.

The Labor Center partners with union organizers and labor and popular educators to develop curricula and workshops for these popular leadership schools:

African American Leadership School, contact Lola Smallwood Cuevas, 213/480-4155 x210;

Asian American Leadership School, contact Jan Tokumaru, 213/480-4155 x201;

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Leadership School, contact Gillian Claycomb, 213/480-4155 x207;

Spanish-Language Leadership School (Colegio), contact Janna Shadduck Hernández, 213/480-4155 x211, or Victor Narro, 213/480-4155 x209;

Student-Labor Leadership School for community college and UCLA activists, contact Elizabeth Espinoza, 310/206-0812.

The Labor Center views the leadership schools as part of its commitment to providing leadership development for union members, community activists, and worker-leaders to enable them to take on leadership roles in the struggle for workers' rights in their organizations.



2007 LGBTQ Leadership School

Women United for Action

“Women United for Action” was the theme of the twenty-sixth annual Summer Institute for Union Women (SIUW) hosted by the UC Berkeley Center for Labor Research and Education and cosponsored by the United Association for Labor Education. The institute drew more than 150 women from across the country to learn union organizing and negotiating skills, to strengthen coalitions between unions and community groups, and to sharpen skills for the creative use of multimedia.

The union women were inspired to participate in solidarity actions supporting the Hotel and Restaurant workers and the Teamsters Union in their struggles for recognition and better wages and benefits. Excitement was high as this was the first union



SIUW participants Karen Fox-Hodas and Fran Grove from the ILWU at a Teamsters action for Blue Diamond workers

action most of the women had participated in.

The Arts and Movement Building Workshop created songs and chants for these actions and the evening entertainment. The new Multimedia Workshop provided background for using computer equipment and software to produce videos and flyers for local union organizing and education programs. The Herstory Workshop visited a historical site dedicated to Rosie the Riveter.

June McMahon, Andrea Arias, Cristina Lopez, and Jessica Barcelona from the UCLA Labor Center and LOSH attended the institute. Next year's summer institute will be held in Victoria, British Columbia, July 9–13. For more information, go to www.bcfed.ca.

Leaders of Justice



Lakesha Harrison

More than seventy-five unionists, community members, and labor educators gathered at the UCLA Downtown Labor Center to celebrate the birthday of A. Philip Randolph during the first annual Leaders of Justice luncheon.

Hosted by the UCLA African American Union Leadership School and the A. Philip Randolph Institute, the luncheon honored seven local leaders for their commitment to workers' rights and the development of union leadership in Los Angeles. The honorees included Larry Brown, president of NALC Local 24; Alice Goff, president of AFSCME 3090; Leroy Jackson, president of NABET Local 53; Lakesha Harrison, president of AFSCME Local 3299; Tyrone Freeman, president of SEIU Local 6434; Velma Butler, president of AFT Local 1521A; and Bill Lloyd, trustee of SEIU Local 99.

A. Philip Randolph organized ten thousand Pullman porters nationwide in 1937 and proved African Americans could organize and build

power for the American labor movement. His efforts led to the desegregation of the U.S. armed forces, defense industry jobs, and later the AFL-CIO leadership. His work for social and economic justice became the foundation of the 1960s civil rights struggle.



Larry Brown

LGBTQ Leadership School 2007

The UCLA Labor Center hosted the third Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ) Labor Leadership School April 20–21 with support from Pride at Work, the national LGBT labor organization. More than twenty participants engaged in workshops on topics ranging from gender, sexuality, assertiveness, and communication to immigration and workers' rights.

The evening event, "A New Union: A Labor-LGBT Exchange," cosponsored by the labor committee of the Vote for Equality campaign, created a public space for union members and staff to give personal testimonies on why the labor movement and LGBTQ community must work together for equal rights and justice. The keynote speakers were María

Elena Durazo, secretary-treasurer of the L.A. County Federation of Labor, and Lorri Jean, CEO of the



Lorri Jean and María Elena Durazo

L.A. Gay and Lesbian Center. Ms. Durazo said that our movements must take concrete action to support

each other, because it is through specific acts of solidarity that union members learn that their community includes LGBTQ people. She also highlighted the importance of pro-LGBTQ resolutions that authorize labor councils to hold political candidates accountable on LGBTQ issues. Ms. Jean addressed the need to educate the LGBTQ community on working people's and immigrants' rights issues and pledged to outreach to her networks in support of comprehensive immigration reform.

Ongoing meetings of the school will further develop plans for education and action around LGBTQ workers' rights. Based on the Labor Center's model, Pride at Work chapters across the country are organizing similar schools.

L.A. Labor Builds Solidarity in Shanghai

Kent Wong participated in a historic delegation of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor to establish formal relations with the Shanghai Municipal Trade Union Council. In July 2007, the delegation led by María Elena Durazo met with union leaders in Shanghai and Beijing, visited four different worksites, and met with labor representatives at the national, provincial, municipal, and local levels.

This is the first time a U.S. central labor council has established sister-city relations with a central labor council in China. In the last year, unions in China have successfully organized seventy Wal-Mart stores and four hundred McDonalds and KFC restaurants. China adopted new labor laws strengthening worker rights the week before

the L.A. County Federation of Labor arrived in China.

There are about 134 million union members in China. In Shanghai alone, there are more than 6 million union members. The L.A. County Federation of Labor met with the Shanghai Teachers Union president and discussed a new proposal to establish an exchange program for high school teachers and students between the two cities that would begin in 2008.

During the visit to the Port of Shanghai, the third largest port in the world, representatives of the ILWU and the Shanghai Maritime Union discussed the dock workers' working conditions and health and safety issues, and pledged to strengthen relations between the unions.



Organizing in the Building Trades

A coalition of groups is working to pass the first departmentwide Project Labor Agreement (PLA) at the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA). Headed up by the Los Angeles County Federation, coalition partners include iron workers, painters, pipe trades, electrical workers, and painters, as well as Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy (LAANE), the AFL-CIO, and the



Desiree Velasco from Legal Aid of Los Angeles and Joaquin Calderon from the Labor Center conduct an educational workshop for car wash workers.

Labor Center. The Labor Center is providing fact sheets for labor, developers, elected officials, and community members that explain the processes, benefits, and costs of Project Labor Agreements.

The Painters Union and Institute of Popular Education

of Southern California (IDEPSCA), which manages and operates day laborer worker centers throughout Los Angeles, are creating a pilot project to create and implement a local hiring process by which day laborers will go through the Painters' Union apprenticeship program and get placed in family-supporting, union jobs.

The Car Wash Industry Organizing Campaign is the first union organizing effort of car wash workers. Through the United Steel Workers, the AFL-CIO will be launching a campaign to create a countywide Car Wash Worker Association that will lead the fight for better working conditions and union membership for car wash workers.

As part of a collaborative effort with the Change To Win Federation, NDLO and the Laborers International Union of North America (LIUNA) are working together to forge a national organizing initiative in the private residential construction industry. This initiative will recruit day laborers in the construction industry to become full-fledged union members through the creation of new LIUNA locals based on the model of NDLO day laborer worker centers.

Career Fair and Labor Education Open House

The UCLA Labor Center, School of Public Affairs, USAC Office of the Internal Vice President, Community Programs Office, and other campus entities hosted the **Los Angeles Nonprofit Career Fair** on April 17. Idealist.org coordinated this free event for UCLA students and community members to distribute resumes and speak with organizational representatives about employment



Elizabeth Espinoza, Labor Center; Joanna Perez, Labor and Workplace Studies Minor; Cristina Lopez, Labor Center; Aleyda Moran, UCLA-LOSH; and Ralph de Unamuno, UCLA Community Programs Office, at the Career Fair

and internship opportunities. Seventy-two nonprofit organizations and educational institutions participated, including Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now, AFL-CIO Organizing Institute, Koreatown Youth and Community Center, National Farm Workers Service Center, Pepperdine University School of Public Policy, Public Allies Los Angeles, Service Employees International Union, and UNITE HERE Local 11.

For more information on next spring's job fair, contact Elizabeth Espinoza, 310/206-0812 or espinoza@irle.ucla.edu.

The UCLA Labor Center participated in the **Labor Education Open House** on May 21 at Musicians' Local 47. In an effort to inform unions about the various educational opportunities available to them, the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor invited the newly launched Dolores Huerta Institute, Collective Bargaining Education Project (for high school students), Los Angeles Trade Tech Community College, Cal State Dominguez Hills Labor Studies Program, The National Labor College, and the UCLA Labor Center to attend. The goal of the open house was to highlight how labor education can build unions as well as transform the labor movement.

Longshore Workers Confront Hazards

Longshore workers who unload cargo are on the front line of exposure to potential hazards associated with the growing movement of goods through the Los Angeles/Long Beach ports complex, the largest in the country. To prepare workers for incidents such as exploding containers or chemical spills, the UCLA Labor Occupational Safety and Health (LOSH) program and the International Longshore Workers Union (ILWU) held a week-long course in June for twenty-one ILWU members. Participants in the course received state certification to handle hazardous materials, how to respond safely to an incident, and who and when to call for help.

Together with UC Berkeley's Labor Occupational Health Program and the University of Washington, LOSH taught course participants techniques for educating their coworkers who handle cargo along the West Coast. "This information is important for ILWU members to know," stated Mark Williams, ILWU Local 13 trustee. "We have a right to know about the hazards we work with and how we can protect ourselves and the community." LOSH staff will continue working with the ILWU to train workers

and to ensure that the push to move goods quickly does not jeopardize the safety of workers at the ports.



LOSH staff Ingrid Zubietta and ILWU members

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