

New MRU in Bioengineering Established at UC San Diego

The Bioengineering Institute of California (BIC), the latest addition to the family of UC Multicampus Research Units, was established at UC San Diego in June, 2003 under the direction of University Professor Shu Chien. It is a joint effort of all nine operational University of California campuses.

Bioengineering is an emerging field encompassing research areas at the interface of biology, medicine and engineering. It takes in such endeavors as molecular and cellular engineering, molecular delivery, bioinformatics, biomaterials, biorobotics and tissue engineering. The BIC will facilitate cross-fertilization of relevant disciplines in this new and highly interdisciplinary field.

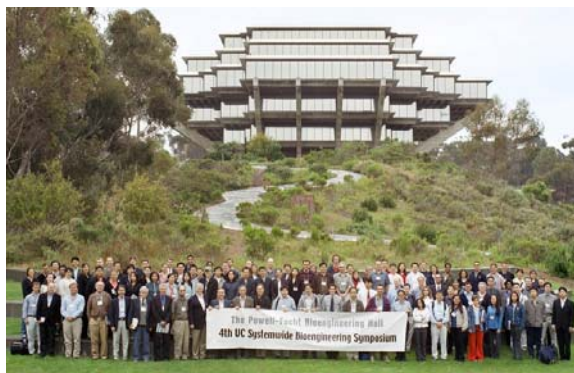
Representatives from nine campuses formed a Steering Committee in 1999 to explore establishing such an institute. Since its first meeting at UCSD, the committee has met twelve times around UC and has engaged in an extensive exchange of ideas. These meetings led to both the MRU proposal and to a number of related initiatives.

Among the latter is the establishment of the Annual Systemwide Bioengineering Symposium, which convened at UC Davis in 2000 with

about 100 participants. Successive meetings were held at UC Santa Barbara in 2001 (with 200 participants), UC Berkeley in 2002 (with 250 participants), and UC San Diego in 2003 (with over 350 participants, see photo). The next two symposia will be held at UC Irvine and UC Santa Cruz. The plan is to rotate the Symposia through the ten campuses, including UC Merced—which will eventually

harness the collective strengths of the UC campuses in the education of bioengineering students. It will also build a systemwide network for collaboration, combining the talents and capabilities of UC faculty to develop web-based materials to supplement classroom teaching.

As an MRU, the BIC is designed to bring together strengths and expertise in different areas of the UC system and to foster the cooperation among campuses necessary to create a cohesive network of shared information, resources, dissemination and public engagement. Over two hundred faculty members and research scientists have agreed to participate in the new MRU. BIC's integrative approach will make UC the leader and the



model in bioengineering nationally and internationally. The advancement of new scientific knowledge fostered by BIC will be translated to industrial products and clinical medicine, through collaboration with industry and clinicians. The results will benefit the economy in California and the nation and enhance the health and well-being of our citizens and humankind.

Humanities Scholars Meet to Discuss Homeland Security

With homeland security issues permeating every aspect of our current society, addressing these issues will require the contributions of people with diverse viewpoints and resources—including experts in humanities, arts and social sciences who have a role in the conceptual, research and development stages of today's science and technology discoveries. On September 19, a group of humanities MRU, MRG and center directors met at the UC Humanities Research Institute (HRI) in Irvine to discuss collaborative projects centering on the theme of homeland security. Those attending included David Theo Goldberg (HRI), Kevin Franklin (HRI), Bill Warner

become a member of the MRU. The motto of the Symposium is "Ten campuses united as one. Learning and growing together".

Another initiative is the UC Systemwide Biomedical Engineering Education Consortium, which the BIC Steering Committee established through a Special Opportunity Award from the Whitaker Foundation. This Consortium will

(Digital Cultures Project), Claudia Rapp (History and Culture of Late Antiquity), Françoise Lionnet and Shu-mei Shih (Transnational and Transcolonial Studies), David Trend (UC Institute for Research in the Arts), John Smith (UCI Humanities Center and Critical Theory Institute, CTI) and Dick Hebdige (UCSB Interdisciplinary Humanities Center), as well as Dante Noto, Director of Humanities, Arts and Social Science Programs and Initiatives at UCOP.

An organizing theme was the very notion of security. Framed in an historical and rhetorical context, security can lead to deeper understandings of law, criminality, terror, nationalism, and justice. UC Irvine's

Critical Theory Institute has begun a project entitled "In Security" that explores the question of how individual, social, and political security needs to be understood within the context of western modernity. According to Smith, the project explores the conditions that have made the modern world possible, as well as its expressions and effects: How, the project asks, do new forms of thinking factored centrally around issues of security come into being, and what are the implications?

To provide an historical framework, Claudia Rapp described the period of late antiquity—roughly the

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Sánchez-Rodríguez named Director of UC MEXUS

Roberto Sánchez-Rodríguez, an international scholar with academic experience in Mexico, the U.S and Canada, was appointed Director of Riverside-based UC MEXUS on October 1, 2003. The Institute's third director since its inception in 1984, he takes over from Juan Vicente Palerm, who has served since 1994. He has also been appointed professor of Environmental Studies at UCR.

Formerly of UC Santa Cruz, Professor Sánchez-Rodríguez specializes in environmental and development issues in Mexico and the U.S.-Mexico border regions, in the context of NAFTA. He brings to UC MEXUS (formally known as the Institute for Mexico and the United States) an interdisciplinary and transnational approach in overseeing and promoting research on the environmental, trade and urban issues that affect both countries. Professor Sánchez-Rodríguez previously served as Program Manager in Montréal at the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation, created under NAFTA, and as Director of the Department of Urban and Environmental Studies at the Colegio de la Frontera Norte (COLEF) in Tijuana, Baja California. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Architecture from the Universidad Nacional Autónoma

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Homeland Security and the Humanities, continued

years from 200 AD through 800 AD—as a time of threat to the security of empire by invading Barbarians. The period was characterized by the arrival of Islam and Arabs and as a transitional period from paganism to Christianity. Important lessons can be gleaned from this historical period insofar as how societies respond to decline and threats, and how these changes transform society. Rapp was building on an important earlier discussion at the World History Workshop MRG during which Chair Ken Pomeranz had laid the groundwork for studies in world culture as it relates to issues of security.

Françoise Lionnet outlined the connections between “security” and issues such as development and poverty, health and nutrition, human rights and the role of language in ordering culture. Shu-mei Shih added that their MRG addresses the “question of the foreigner” as alien body and immigrant. How does one identify a stranger? How can one feel secure in a community? Security should, she main-

tained, also be understood in economic and ethical terms and within a globally interdependent structure. The HRI will explore these themes in an upcoming residential research group, “The Ethics of the Neighbor.”

Dante Noto spoke to the notion of “public humanities,” that has been articulated by many campuses. Such a public initiative would encourage collaborations between campus programs, museums, libraries and other campus groups on the theme of homeland security. The Digital Arts Research Network MRG has already begun to organize such collaborations, with projects focused on surveillance that extend the concerns around security to the digital arts.

The discussions concluded with the goal of convening another meeting in early 2004 with faculty, MRU, MRG and center directors, museum and library officials, foundation program officers and UCOP staff to focus on a systemwide collaborative project on homeland security.

Accolades for the All-UC Group in Economic History

Members of the All-UC Group in Economic History, the UC Davis-based MRU that is internationally recognized for excellence in research on economic history, continue their record of outstanding achievements.

Petra Moser, a group member who recently completed her Ph.D. at Berkeley and who is now Assistant Professor at MIT, won the 2002-03 Economic History Association's Alexander Gerschenkron

Prize for the best dissertation in non-American economic history. Director Alan Olmstead was awarded the 2002-03 Arthur H. Cole Prize for the best article in the *Journal of Economic History*, while Professor Roger Ransom (UC Riverside) was overwhelmingly elected President of the Economic History Association for 2004-05. Congratulations to them, and to the entire membership of the Group!

Upcoming Events *meetings and conferences*

UC ACCORD Fall 2003 Conference. December 5-7, 2003 at UC Santa Cruz. Consult program website for updates: <http://ucaccord.gseis.ucla.edu/resources/calendar/index.html>

World History Conference. December 6-7, 2003 at UCLA. Sponsored by the UC World History Workshop. The theme for the conference centers on the idea of “countercurrents” —those historical experiences that run counter to dominant trends toward convergence. The World History Workshop will cover transportation and accommodations costs for UC faculty and graduate student participants, with preference for paper-givers. Please send proposals for papers/panels and requests for accommodations to Richard von Glahn at vonglahn@history.ucla.edu.

Conference on the Political Economy of International Finance. March 12, 2004, University of California, San Diego. Sponsored by the Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation (IGCC). IGCC will host the fourth meeting of the research group on Political Economy of International Finance (PEIF), to consider the latest interdisciplinary research on the subject. For more information, see <http://www-igcc.ucsd.edu/research/PEIF.php>, or contact Lynne Bush at lbush@ucsd.edu.

Ninth Annual POWER Research Conference: Learning from Experiences: Comparisons of Electricity Restructuring. March, 19, 2004 at UC Berkeley. Sponsored by the UC Energy Institute (UCEI). A call for papers (due December 15) is underway, on subjects including price-responsive demand, market power, the future role of regulation, transmission investment and pricing, etc. For details, see <http://www.ucei.berkeley.edu/conf2004/call04.html>

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WWW.UCOP.EDU/RESEARCH/PUBLICATIONS/MRUGUIDE.HTML

Roberto Sánchez-Rodríguez

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de México, a Certificate in Urban and Regional Planning from the Ministère des Affaires Étrangères in Paris, and a Ph.D. in Regional and Urban Planning from the University of Dortmund in West Germany. His book, *The Environment as a Source of Binational Conflict between Mexico and the United States*, was published in 1990.



In 2002, Professor Sánchez-Rodríguez helped to create and develop the *Third International Human Dimensions Workshop: Human Dimensions of Urbanization and the Transition to Sustainability*, a two-week program that educated scholars from around the world. He has garnered numerous awards for his work, including a Leadership Development Award from the MacArthur Foundation in 1992 and a Senior Bell Fellowship at the Harvard Center for Population and Development Studies in 1994.

As Director of UC MEXUS, Sánchez-Rodríguez will be charged with fostering research ties between Mexico and UC and with strengthening research in Mexican, Latino and US-Mexican studies at UC.