The Office of Interdisciplinary & Cross Campus Affairs is pleased to present its 2015-16 Annual Report.

One campus. Unlimited possibilities. Few universities can claim this. UCLA however, is uniquely positioned to make this aspiration reality. We have the intellectual breadth, depth and curiosity that comes from being one of the world’s finest research intensive universities, and a campus that literally connects the spectrum of disciplines within one compact, beautiful location. Since its inception in 2013, ICCA has worked to facilitate the interdisciplinary efforts of faculty, students and staff and to encourage the UCLA community to take advantage of the endless possibilities for collaboration across fields that UCLA has to offer.

In addition to strengthening partnerships and collective networks around the Campus, ICCA has worked during the 2015-16 year to provide better access to interdisciplinary information and services for the campus community. New activities or programs in international migration, the intersection of science and the arts and humanities, and inequality and democracy have been initiated with support from ICCA. In addition, ICCA partnered with the Undergraduate Research Center—Humanities, Arts & Social Sciences to encourage greater participation of undergraduates in interdisciplinary research opportunities.

This year’s new programs continue to build on past success and pave the way for greater collaboration in the future. I am proud of the work that UCLA’s faculty, students and staff have accomplished in expanding interdisciplinary inquiry, and am excited about the opportunities the Campus will see in the coming year.

Tim Brewer, Vice Provost, Interdisciplinary & Cross Campus Affairs
Many undergraduates realize that interdisciplinary collaboration is increasingly important to careers, both within academia and outside of it. These careers require the same skills as successfully interdisciplinary ventures: the ability to analyze problems from different perspectives, to work in a multidisciplinary team, to communicate clearly with people from a wide range of backgrounds, and to manage multiple priorities.

To encourage interested undergraduates to participate in interdisciplinary research activities, ICCA was pleased to partner with the Undergraduate Research Center—Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences in a pilot program of a new Undergraduate Interdisciplinary Research Scholarships. The scholarships were open to all UCLA undergraduates, and required students to undertake research with at least two faculty members representing distinct disciplines on campus.

This year eight Undergraduate Interdisciplinary Research Scholarship award winners worked with sixteen faculty mentors from departments and schools across campus to complete their research projects.

Scholarship recipients received $830 per quarter for up to one academic year of research and were enrolled in student research programs or departmental research courses.

Jeffrey Wong presenting his research poster during Undergraduate Research Week at Pauley Pavilion. Jeffrey’s research focused on the mentorship experiences of LGBT undergraduate students pursuing health careers.
Giancarlos Campos

Faculty Mentors
Noa Kaplan, Department of Design Media Arts, School of the Arts & Architecture
Karina Oliva Alvarado, Department of Chicana/o Studies, Division of Social Sciences

Research area: the ways in which Salvadoran immigrants have constructed the Salvadoran Civil War through oral history and ephemeral objects, also considering the reasons some Salvadoran immigrants omit this history. Campos intends to compile this investigation in the form of a book. The larger project aims to situate Diasporic-Salvadoran artistic production in conversation with El Salvador’s complicated art historical discourse, ultimately proposing an art historical framework for art makers from El Salvador and its various diasporic communities.

Gabriel Garza

Faculty Mentors:
Hirsch Perlman, School of the Arts & Architecture
Cheryl Keyes, Alpert School of Music

Research area: researching and creating a performance based inside of a hypothetical history, opening up dialogue and critique on the music industry and music history.

Dayea Kim

Faculty Mentors:
Saloni Mathur, Department of Art History, Division of Humanities
James Welling, School of the Arts & Architecture

Research area: museology and photography, with the intent of beginning a collection of fine art photography in and around art museums in Los Angeles, specifically of individuals and crowds viewing art.
Undergraduate Interdisciplinary Research Scholarships

Continued

Todd Lu

Faculty Mentors

Tobias Higbie, Department of History, Division of Social Sciences
Geotz Wolff, Department of Urban Planning, Luskin School of Public Affairs

Research area: studying the effects of state funding cuts on the employment distribution in the University of California in order to investigate austerity’s broader impacts on UC shared governance. His research builds upon the works of UC faculty such as Michael Meranze, Christopher Newfield, Robert Samuels, and Charles Schwartz, who have written extensively on the negative structural impacts to the UC due to the state’s austerity policies. He intends to make his data publicly available for use in future research.

Regina Napolitano

Faculty Mentors:

Michelle Erai, Division of Social Sciences, Department of Gender Studies
Safiya Umoja Noble, Department of Information Studies, Graduate School of Education and Information Studies

Research area: investigating the presence of feminist writing and activism on social media, specifically the website Tumblr, and how that shapes her generation’s activism or lack of activism around feminism.

Tira Okamoto

Faculty Mentors:

Aparna Sharma, School of Theater, Film and Television
David Gere, Department of World Arts & Cultures/Dance, School of the Arts & Architecture

Research area: critically examining ecological feminism, the intersection of environmentalism and feminism, specifically focusing on theoretical controversies and how female climate activists position themselves within the movement. More broadly, this research question directly examines climate justice and gender equality, two current hot-button social issues, and how their intersection is relevant to social change.
Undergraduate Interdisciplinary Research Scholarships

Continued

Noemi Ruiz

Faculty Mentors

David Hayes-Bautista, Department of Chicana/o Studies, Division of Social Sciences
Paul Hsu, Department of Epidemiology, Fielding School of Public Health

Research area: examining the notion of assimilation as it pertains to body dissatisfaction among Mexican-American women in college, particularly focusing on the impact of immigration generation status.

Jeffrey Oliver Wong

Faculty Mentors:

Thomas Coates, Center for World Health, David Geffen School of Medicine
Ian Holloway, Department of Social Welfare, Luskin School of Public Affairs

Research area: UCLA STEM student experience with and access to LGBT STEM mentors.
ICCA Launches New Website

This spring, ICCA launched its new website. The new site includes more interactive information, including a listing of campus events by interdisciplinary activity area rather than by individual department or center. It still includes information about ICCA’s funding competitions, as well as lists of past awardees.

ICCA is developing a database for faculty to be able to search for colleagues by interdisciplinary research and teaching areas. This capacity will help faculty and students answer the common question: who on Campus also works in my field? If you would like to suggest an interdisciplinary area for a faculty activity survey or if you are faculty and would like to be included in the database, please contact Laurel Grzesik at lgrzesik@conet.ucla.edu
Campus Activity Mapping and Surveys

Building on its initial campus mapping of both environment & sustainability and global health activities, ICCA has continued to map interdisciplinary activity areas across campus. This year’s areas of focus included diversity, neuroscience, and international migration. Results and interactive maps and diagrams will be available on the ICCA website in the coming months at: https://www.icca.ucla.edu/content/campus-activity-maps-surveys

ICCA has also worked to map the departments represented in UCLA’s eighteen Organized Research Units (ORUs). Interactive diagrams of the ORUs’ breadth of scope is available here: https://www.icca.ucla.edu/organized-research-units

If you would like to suggest an interdisciplinary area of an activity survey, please contact Laurel Grzesik at lgrzesik@conet.ucla.edu

Many thanks to ICCA’s student researchers: Robyn Jimenez, Mariam Manukyan, Jesica Truong, and Brianna Wenger.
In 2015-16, ICCA continued its support for international migration research and activity at UCLA. This year saw the creation of the UCLA Center for the Study of International Migration in the International Institute. The creation of the Center marks the expansion of the former Program on International Migration, led by center director Roger Waldinger. The new Center includes twenty affiliated UCLA faculty members studying the multidimensional phenomenon of migration, representing departments from education to medicine and sociology.

The Center hosts bi-weekly talks on migration topics, including panels and presentations from activists, policy makers and analysts as well as scholars. The Center holds workshops and conferences for students and scholars from diverse disciplines. For more information on the Center’s events and work, please visit: http://www.international.ucla.edu/migration

Global Health

In keeping with its role in facilitating the creation of a more cohesive campus global health initiative, ICCA sponsored nine undergraduate student travel stipends to the 2016 Consortium of Universities for Global Health’s annual conference in San Francisco. Many of the student travel recipients are participating in the new Global Health minor and were able to expand their perspectives through hearing about the intersection of global health and sustainability at the conference.

Inequality and Democracy

ICCA was proud to co-sponsor the launch event for the new Institute on Inequality and Democracy at UCLA’s Luskin School. The Institute advances radical democracy in an unequal world through research, critical thought, and alliances with social movements and racial justice activism both locally and across the global north and south. More information is available on the Institute’s website: https://challengeinequality.luskin.ucla.edu/
Annual Funding Competitions

Symposia, Workshop & Planning Meeting Opportunity
In response to the large number of inquiries and proposals ICCA has received for its funding competition over the past three years, in 2015-16 ICCA held its Symposia, Workshop & Planning Meeting competition in both the Fall and Spring Quarters. To be considered by the review panels, proposals had to include collaborations of faculty from at least two separate schools, divisions, or Organized Research Units within UCLA.

Visiting Speaker Opportunity
In addition, this year saw the launch of ICCA’s new Visiting Speaker Competition. Building on the success of the symposia competition, ICCA established a funding competition to bring visiting speakers to campus. The program is designed to support recognized leaders in different fields of academia to visit UCLA for up to one week of activities to promote collaboration across schools, divisions, departments, and Organized Research Units. The goal of the program is to encourage units to find areas of mutual programmatic interest, to explore these intersections with the help of visiting scholars, and to build upon these relationships after the end of the events.
Symposia, Workshop & Planning Meeting Awards

Fall 2015

Addressing Latino Health Inequity through Art, Policy, and Science

A three-part symposia series co-sponsored by the UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center, the UCLA Blum Center on Poverty and Health in Latin America, and the UCLA Kaiser Permanente Center for Health Equity. The series examines critical issues affecting the health of Latinos in the United States and fosters discussions that encourage collective and strategic thinking in ways to effectively address health inequities.

Affiliated Departments: Asian American Studies, Chicana & Chicano Studies, Family Medicine, Film, Television & Digital Media, Health Policy and Management

Affiliated Faculty: Roshan Bastani, Professor, Health Policy and Management, UCLA Fielding School of Public Health & Director of the UCLA Kaiser Permanente Center for Health Equity; Chon Noriega, UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center Director and Professor, Film, Television and Digital Media; Michael Rodriguez, Professor, Family Medicine, David Geffen School of Medicine, & Director of the UCLA Blum Center on Poverty and Health in Latin America; Renee Tajima-Pena, Professor, Asian American Studies & Director of the Center for EthnoCommunications; Arturo Vargas Bustamante, Associate Professor, Health Policy and Management, UCLA Fielding School of Public Health.

Embody in Unequal Environments

A four-part seminar series featuring scholars working at the intersections of inequality, bodies and embodiment, environment, and race. The purpose of the series is to draw students and faculty from across the UCLA community and the public into a timely discussion around race, biomedicine, governance, and diverse ideas about the body as an object of intervention and care.

Affiliated Departments: Anthropology, Institute for Society & Genetics, Sociology, Urban Planning

Affiliated Faculty: Hannah Appel, Assistant Professor, Anthropology; Hannah Landecker, Director, Institute for Society and Genetics & Associate Professor, Sociology; Philippe Bourgois, Semel Institute; Ruben Hernandez-Leon, Associate Professor, Sociology; Michael Storper, Professor, Urban Planning, UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs.
Symposia, Workshop & Planning Meeting Awards

Fall 2015

2016 International Symposium on Nanobiotechnology

Symposium held February 3 - 5 open to UCLA faculty, postdoctoral researchers, and students as a means to engage in a unique and innovative fashion with speakers. The 10th annual Symposium on Nanobiotechnology covered new materials for drug delivery and cellular interactions, sensors and diagnostics, and new imaging techniques, as well as biological interactions such as immunological responses and in vivo targeting abilities.

Affiliated Departments: Bioengineering, Chemistry & Biochemistry, Materials Science & Engineering, Molecular & Medical Pharmacology, Pathology & Laboratory Medicine

Affiliated Faculty: Heather Maynard, Professor, Chemistry & Biochemistry and Associate Director, California NanoSystems Institute; Steve Dubinett, Professor, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and Molecular & Medical Pharmacology, David Geffen School of Medicine; Andrea Kasko, Associate Professor, Bioengineering; Leonard Rome, Professor, Biological Sciences & Associate Director, California NanoSystems Institute; Paul Weiss, Distinguished Professor, Chemistry & Biochemistry and Materials Science & Engineering; Anna Wu, Director, JCCC Cancer Molecular Imaging and Professor, Molecular & Medical Pharmacology; Jeffrey Zink, Distinguished Professor, Chemistry & Biochemistry.

Art Restoration: Philosophy, Materiality, Aesthetics

Two workshops to be held in Fall 2016 to engage interdisciplinary discussions and exchange of views regarding art and its restoration from the perspectives of philosophers, conservators, restorers, art historians, materials scientists and artists. From the two workshops, a new interdisciplinary collaboration will be forged with the aim of holding a regular series of seminars on art and restoration which will be a cross-campus activity, ranging from Materials Sciences in the School of Engineering to Philosophy in the Division of Humanities.

Affiliated Departments: Art History, Information Studies, Materials Science & Engineering, Philosophy

Affiliated Faculty: David Scott, Professor, Art History; Ioanna Kakoulli, Professor, Materials Science, Henry Samueli School of Engineering and Applied Science; Ellen Pearlstein, Associate Professor, Information Studies, Graduate School of Education and Information Studies; Gavin Lawrence, Professor, Philosophy; Andrew Hsu, Professor, Philosophy; Miwon Kwon, Professor, Art History; Meredith Cohen, Associate Professor, Art History.
Planning Session to Develop New Interdisciplinary Course for Dental and Medical Innovations

Planning sessions to facilitate interdisciplinary collaborations in order to design the structure for a dental innovations course.

Affiliated Departments: Bioengineering, Oral Biology

Affiliated Faculty: Dean Ho, Professor, School of Dentistry; Daniel Kamei, Professor and Vice Chair, Bioengineering; Minh Tran, Director of Curriculum and Academic Enrichment, School of Dentistry.

Spring 2016

Drowning World

Presentation from award-winning photographer Gideon Mendel to show and discuss his "Drowning World" project followed by a roundtable discussion on ways to communicate effectively with the general public regarding climate change science, which is potentially a very complicated, perhaps even unfathomable subject for non-scientists. The subject of the roundtable was not science per se, but rather how to share or teach science in such a way that it incites action, as Mendel’s Drowning World project has been designed to do. A separate event held later will feature a focus on climate change and poetry.

Affiliated Departments: World Arts & Cultures/Dance, Geography, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Institute for the Environment & Sustainability

Affiliated Faculty: David Gere, Professor, World Arts & Cultures/Dance, Katharine Davis Reich, Associate Director and Environmental Educator, UCLA Center for Climate Change Solutions, Glen MacDonald, John Muir Memorial Chair and Distinguished Professor of Geography, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Anurima Banerji, Assistant Professor of World Arts and Cultures/Dance

Bioethics Symposia Series

A series of three symposia on critical issues of bioethics. Topics included medical care decisions at the end of life, informed consent, and health care rationing.

Affiliated Departments: Law, Nursing

Affiliated Faculty: Allison Hoffman, Professor of Law, Law School, Katherine Brown-Saltzman, Co-director, Ethics Center, UCLA Health System, Assistant Clinical Professor, UCLA School of Nursing, Carol Pavlish, Associate Professor, UCLA School of Nursing
Symposia, Workshop & Planning Meeting Awards

Spring 2016

Causal Inference: from Biology to Computer Science

To be held Winter 2017, workshop and symposium on Causal Inference, an interdisciplinary subject that has engaged a range of disciplines, including philosophy, mathematics, computer science, neuroscience, psychology, epidemiology, cognitive science, sociology and economics. Causation is the cement of the universe, as the philosopher John Mackie noted. Not only is it our framework for understanding how the world works, it is our basis for interventions to achieve desired outcomes. Beyond providing an opportunity for continued discussions and interchanges between members of the groups involved, this symposium also has a key educational role in providing an opportunity for graduate and undergraduate students to meet and hear talks from top experts in the diverse fields represented.

Affiliated Departments: Neurobiology, Psychology, Radiological Sciences, Pathology & Laboratory Medicine, Molecular & Medical Pharmacology, Statistics, Epidemiology

Affiliated Faculty: Alcino J Silva (Neurobiology Department) Aaron Blaisdell (Department of Psychology) Patricia Cheng (Department of Psychology) William Hsu (Department of Radiological Sciences) Jonathan Braun (UCLA Pathology & Laboratory Medicine) Huiying Li (Molecular & Medical Pharmacology, UCLA) Chad Hazlett (Statistics) Onyebuchi Arah (Epidemiology, Public Health)

Understanding the New Middle East

This conference, to be held in winter 2017, will bring together academics, commentators, and other experts to explore the roots and nature of the current crises in the Middle East and to plot the region’s future trajectory.

The meeting is motivated by the rise of several flashpoints that have radically altered the regional balance of power, the viability of existing states and the emergence and proliferation of violent non-state actors. The new crises that have marked the region since the beginning of the Arab uprisings in 2011 are linked to enduring challenges in the region relating to population growth, poverty, corruption, economic decline, unemployment, drought and religious extremism. Yet these continuities tend to mask the recent disruptions that have upended conventional wisdom about the region in the social sciences. These disruptions include the shifting role of regional and outside powers now locked in proxy wars from Syria to Yemen, the emergence of new non-state actors seeking to displace the existing nationstate order, and the explosion of grassroots demands that have called into question long-standing claims about the durability of existing authoritarian regimes.

Affiliated Departments: Anthropology, History, Law, Sociology

Affiliated Faculty: James Gelvin (History), Kevan Harris (Sociology), Aoumar Boum (Anthropology) Aslı Bâli (Law, and Director of the Center for Near Eastern Studies.)
Chemical Entanglements

A symposium, lecture, and workshop to convene a group of researchers, scientists and community-based researchers, artists, documentarians, and policy makers to assess the gendered impacts of (primarily endocrine-disrupting) chemicals on human populations. By marshaling a variety of perspectives—laboratory, ethnographic, epidemiological, and narrative, this transdisciplinary collaboration sought to explore how gender has made a difference in the public’s knowledge with regard to the cumulative effects of environmental toxins.

Affiliated Departments: Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, English, Gender Studies

Affiliated Faculty: Rachel Lee, Director, Center for the Study of Women and Professor, English and Gender Studies; Patty Gowaty, Distinguished Professor, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology

23rd Annual Joint Symposium on Neural Computation

On Saturday June 4th, UCLA hosted the 23rd annual Joint Symposium on Neural Computation (JSNC). The meeting brought together scientists and engineers in Southern California interested in the study of neural computation, a highly interdisciplinary field that lies at the intersection of many disciplines including biology, computer science, physics, mathematics, and engineering. This year’s sessions covered integrated topics including neuroengineering, brain-inspired computing and theoretical neuroscience.

Affiliated Departments: Neuroscience, Physics, Psychology, Neurobiology, Computer Science

Affiliated Faculty: Hugh T. Blair, Professor of Behavioral Neuroscience, UCLA Psychology Department, Mayank Mehta (co-organizer), Professor of Physics at UCLA, Jason Cong, Chancellor’s Professor of Computer Science at UCLA Fei Sha, Professor of Computer Science at UCLA Dean Buonomano, Professor of Neurobiology at UCLA

Photo credit: Reed Hutchinson
Visiting Speaker Awards

Fall 2015

Science in the Media:

Alex Gambis

Inaugural seminar, student discussions, and film screening of Alexis Gambis’ film "The Fly Room," as the first in a series of interdisciplinary seminars around "Science in the Media." Alexis Gambis participated in discussions of his film and his career, as well as the process of scientific research, the role of science in society, and the role of media in portraying science accurately to the public.

The ongoing seminar series includes Biomedical Research, the UCLA Career Center and Partnerships UCLA, Department of History, Institute for Genetics & Society, and the Department of Molecular, Cell & Developmental Biology.

Affiliated Departments: Design Media Arts, English, History, Institute for Society & Genetics

Affiliated Faculty: Saori Haigo, Lecturer, Biomedical Research; Rafael Romero, Continuing Lecturer, Biomedical Research; Utpal Banerjee, Professor & Chair of Molecular, Cell & Developmental Biology and Chair, Biomedical Research; Sheila Benko, Associate Director, Partnership UCLA; Allison Carruth, Associate Professor of English, Institute for Society & Genetics, and Institute of the Environment & Sustainability; Soraya de Chadarevian, Professor, History and Institute for Society & Genetics; Jon Christensen, Adjunct Assistant Professor, History, Center for Digital Humanities, and Institute of the Environment & Sustainability; Ursula Heise, Professor, English and Institute of Environment & Sustainability; Victoria Vesna, Professor, Design Media Arts & Director, UCLA Art | Science Center.

Reserve your tickets at: uclascienceinthemediainvite.eventbrite.com/

Generous sponsorship provided by Interdisciplinary & Cross Campus Affairs
Visiting Speaker Awards

Fall 2015

Was it Something I Wore? Sexuality, Dress, Race & Culture: Lebo Moletsane

Note: Due to unforeseen circumstances, this event and visit has been rescheduled for Fall 2016. Please keep an eye on the ICCA events page for further information.

The events of this visit will provide an opportunity for UCLA students and faculty to engage with Professor Moletsane on her crosscutting areas of expertise to explore commonalities between disadvantage communities in the Los Angeles area, the U.S., South Africa, and other countries of the global south. Professor Relebohile Moletsane is Professor and the John Langalibalele Dube Chair in Rural Education in the School of Education, University of KwaZulu-Natal in Durban, South Africa. Her areas of research include curriculum studies, rural education, gender and education, sexual and reproductive health and rights education, girlhood studies and girls’ education in African contexts.

Affiliated Departments: UCLA Center for World Health, Bixby Center on Population and Reproductive Health, Law, Urban Planning, Management, Education

Affiliated Faculty: David Geffen School of Medicine – UCLA Center for World Health – Thomas Coates; Fielding School of Public Health – Bixby Center on Population and Reproductive Health – Paula Tavrow; School of Law – Health and Human Rights Law Project – Lara Stemple; Luskin School of Public Affairs – Global Public Affairs – Steve Commins; Anderson Business School – Center for Global Management – Lucy Allard; School of Education – Edith Omwami
Visiting Speaker Awards

Spring 2016

Smart & Sustainable Cities

Held in May, 2016, top scholars and practitioners presented the latest in urban design, technology, and public policy at an event with a keynote address by Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti.

Affiliated Departments: Institute of the Environment & Sustainability, International Institute, Younes & Soraya Nazarian Center for Israel Studies

Affiliated Faculty: Yoram Cohen, Professor of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, and Professor, Institute of the Environment and Sustainability; Dana Cuff, Professor of Architecture/Urban Design and Urban Planning; J. R. DeShazo, Professor of Public Policy, Urban Planning, and Civil and Environmental Engineering; Stuart Gabriel, Arden Realty Chair, Professor of Finance, and Director, Richard S. Ziman Center for Real Estate; Rajit Gadh, Professor of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering; Mark Gold, Associate Vice Chancellor for Environment and Sustainability, Coastal Center Director, and Adjunct Professor, Institute of the Environment and Sustainability; Peter Kareiva, Director, UCLA Institute of the Environment and Sustainability; Stephanie Pincetl, Professor-in-Residence and Director, California Center for Sustainable Communities, Institute of the Environment and Sustainability; Roger Sherman, Adjunct Professor of Architecture; Martin Wachs, Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Urban Planning

SMART & SUSTAINABLE CITIES

UCLA | 5.19.16

A conference presenting the most innovative new ideas in urban sustainability

Top scholars and practitioners will present the latest in urban design, technology and public policy

Panel sessions:
- Energy
- Water
- Transportation
- Built Environment
- The Digital City & Sharing Economy

WHO should attend: academics, industry and non-profit professionals, government officials, educators, students, and members of the public

WHEN: Thursday, May 19, 2016
8:30 AM - 6:00 PM
WHERE: De Neve Commons
UCLA Campus

General Admission $35
Non-Profit/University Faculty & Staff $25
Students (w/valid student I.D.) $5
Includes continental breakfast and lunch with keynote address

Keynote address by Mayor of Los Angeles Eric Garcetti

Pre-registration required: smartcitiesUCLA.org
(310) 825-9646

www.icca.ucla.edu
Visiting Speaker Awards

Spring 2016

Diversity in Biomedical and Health Disparities Research

To be held in December 2016, Dr. Scott Page, Leonid Hurwicz Collegiate Professor of Complex Systems, Political Science, and Economics in the Center for the Study of Complex Systems at the University of Michigan will visit UCLA for a series of events addressing diversity in complex systems. Specifically, the events will address health disparities among diverse populations and the use of team science to address those disparities. The visit will include two presentations open to the entire campus community and the public. The proposed topics of the panels are: “The Power and Logic of Diversity;” and “The Business Case for Diversity in Biomedical and Health Disparities Research.”

Dr. Page directs the Center for the Study of Complex Systems at the University of Michigan. His primary interest is in diversity and the role that diversity plays in complex systems and how it affects robustness of an organization. He is the author of three books on the topic: The Difference, Complex Adaptive Social Systems, and Diversity and Complexity.

Affiliated Schools: David Geffen School of Medicine, School of Dentistry, School of Nursing, Fielding School of Public Health, Anderson School of Management, Division of Social Sciences

Affiliated Faculty: Lynn Gordon, Professor and Senior Associate Dean for Outreach and Diversity, David Geffen School of Medicine; Edmond Hewlett, Professor and Associate Dean for Outreach and Diversity, UCLA School of Dentistry; Deborah Koniak-Griffin, Professor and Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, UCLA School of Nursing; Marjorie Kagawa-Singer, Research Professor, Director of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion and Chair, Schoolwide Diversity Committee, UCLA Fielding School of Public Health; Kimberly Freeman, Assistant Dean for Diversity Initiatives and Community Relations, UCLA Anderson School of Management; Eric Avila, Professor and Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Division of Social Sciences.

Photo credit: Coral Von Zumwalt
Organized Research Units

Funding Competition

This year ICCA held a separate symposium funding competition exclusively for UCLA Organized Research Units in winter 2016.

Plasma Science & Technology Institute Focus Group Workshops

In September 2015, new Plasma Science & Technology Institute (PSTI) Director Frank Jenko held the Institute’s first PlasmaFest, an extremely successful event bringing together faculty and graduate students from across UCLA. Building on the momentum of that event, PSTI held a series of focus group workshops in: (1) Physics of Bounded Plasmas, (2) Math for Plasma Science, (3) Plasma Astrophysics, (4) Laboratory Astrophysics, and (5) Space Plasma Turbulence.

Affiliated Departments: Physics & Astronomy, Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering, Mathematics; Earth, Planetary & Space Sciences; Electrical Engineering; Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences

ORU: Plasma Science & Technology Institute. Director: Frank Jenko

Adding Performance to Humanities Conferences

In 2016–17 the Center for 17th- & 18th-Century Studies is sponsoring several conferences for which performances will significantly enhance the interdisciplinary explorations of the programs’ topics. This award allows collaborations with the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music, the UCLA School of Theatre, Film and Television, and the UC Irvine Claire Trevor School of the Arts. The partnerships include: (1) a master class on the Pilgrim Scene from Romeo and Juliet, with singers from Opera UCLA directed by Peter Kazaras and actors from the UCLA Department of Theater directed by J. Ed Araiza; (2) a workshop—“Acting Shakespeare”—given by Eli Simon (UC Irvine School of the Arts); and (3) a performance of 18th-century music by students from the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music. The first series of conferences to benefit from a collaboration with the UCLA and UC Irvine performing arts schools is Entertaining the Idea, which will stage a series of encounters between performance and philosophy in Shakespearean drama, encounters designed both to illumine the plays in their poetic and theatrical amplitude and to explore what philosophy and performance might offer each other in 21st-century literary studies.

Events will be held in the 2016-17 academic year.

Affiliated Departments: UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television; UCLA Division of Humanities; UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music

ORU: Center for 17th- and 18th-Century Studies. Director: Barbara Fuchs
Organized Research Units

5-Year Evaluations

Over the last two years, ICCA has worked closely with the academic leadership and the directors of Organized Research Units to develop revised, more equitable guidelines for the five-year review of ORUs. Based on this dialogue, ICCA is beginning the review process of those Organized Research Units due for evaluation. This effort keeps UCLA in compliance with UC ORU policy while bringing increased transparency in the process.

For more information and a full list of Organized Research Units, please visit: www.icca.ucla.edu/organized-research-units

Photo credit: Stephanie Diani
In keeping with its mission, core values, and collegial spirit, the Office of Interdisciplinary & Cross Campus Affairs welcomes ideas for collaborative programs designed to build on UCLA’s success and increase our capacity for interdisciplinary teaching, research, service and learning.