



**Guest Column
Horst Simon**



Dear Colleagues,

The University of California has an exciting opportunity to work on issues that have a profound impact on the US-Mexico relationship in general and the California-Mexico connection in particular.

The Energy Working Group, one of five Working Groups established as part of President Napolitano's UC-Mexico Initiative, has been formed with faculty representation from nine UC campuses and our three national labs (Lawrence Berkeley, Los Alamos and Lawrence Livermore) to look specifically at topics in the energy sector. We have sought to balance faculty expertise on both science and policy. In addition, we have participation by Mexico's Ministry of Energy (SENER) and the Institute for Renewable Energies at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). We are in the process of including additional Mexican representatives.

The Working Group's work plan, recently approved by President Napolitano, identifies four areas where we will concentrate our efforts to develop scientific research, academic exchange and scholarly activities from a UC-Mexico perspective: energy efficiency, the water-energy nexus, energy materials and smart grid. The backdrop for all of these activities is the new scenario created by the historic energy reform in Mexico, which allows state productive enterprises and private companies to participate in the energy sector. The reform also creates the need to develop human talent, cutting edge research and deployment of technologies. This is where the Energy Working Group can leverage the expertise of the faculty network created by the UC-Mexico Initiative to develop collaborations with real impact.

I am encouraged by the interest shown by UC and Mexican faculty to be part of the important mission of the UC-Mexico Initiative. As we prepare to work towards establishing research projects and fostering academic exchanges in the energy area, I look forward to a long-lasting and mutually beneficial relationship with our Mexican partners.

Sincerely,

Horst Simon
Deputy Director, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
Chair, Energy Working Group of the UC-Mexico Initiative

Working Groups plans and budget request approved



The two-year work plans and budget requests submitted to UCOP last May by the five working groups and the academic mobility task force of the UC-Mexico Initiative have been approved by President Napolitano. The resources to be provided by UCOP over the next two years (\$500,000 per working group) will offer opportunities to expand the network of collaborations across the UC system with our Mexico colleagues, and to move forward in addressing the key areas of mutual interests and concern. Working groups are charged with using this funding to leverage external resources.

General objectives of the Working groups work plans:

Arts and Cultures. Foster long-term UC-Mexico collaboration by identifying a means to establish binational research funding opportunities for faculty research (i.e., annual call for proposals); collaboration with UCOP, UC MEXUS, CONACULTA, and CONACYT.

Education. Understand the challenges facing education systems in both the U.S. and Mexico (how they operate, how to navigate them, and what are the expectations of the students) and the challenges impacting directly and indirectly the students (language proficiency, immigration, deportation, cultural disconnect) to address the needs and aspirations of students on both sides of the border.

Energy. Development of value-added research projects on the areas of energy efficiency, water-energy nexus, smart grid and energy materials. Support to academic mobility and workforce development efforts in the energy sector. Online energy law certificate program has been developed; funding is being sought.

Environment. Define critical issues for Mexico and the United States related to climate change, (including binational implications, natural and human adaptations, social and biological impacts); assess the current state of research related to climate change and Mexico and identify priorities for future collaborative research.

Health. Establishment of new research collaborations on the areas of nutrition-diabetes; maternal and neonatal health and violence as a public health issue. The plan includes the creation of two online certificate programs on health management and regulatory sciences.

Academic Mobility Task Force. Build and strengthen UC system-wide academic mobility opportunities that meet and reflect the needs of academia in the 21st century (academic degree requirements, global cultural understanding, experiential learning in lab and private sector, etc).

To keep updated on the UC-Mexico Initiative's working groups and task force undertakings and opportunities be sure to review our website (<http://ucmexicoinitiative.ucr.edu/>).

Engagement with the private sector to bolster academic exchanges



President Napolitano with Thomas Donohue, President of the US Chamber of Commerce; Armando Garza, Chairman of Grupo Alfa; John Rice, Vice Chairman of General Electric, during the signing of the UC-US-MX Dialogue MOU

UC President Janet Napolitano participated on the 4th meeting of the US-Mexico CEO Dialogue on June 11 in Washington D.C. to talk about the UC-Mexico Initiative and explore potential involvement by the private sector in promoting further academic exchanges and collaborations.

The US-Mexico CEO Dialogue is a bilateral private sector forum that fosters conversation on key economic and trade issues that impact the relationship between Mexico and the U.S.

As part of her participation on the event, which was chaired by John G. Rice, vice chairman of General Electric, and Armando Garza, chairman of Monterrey-based Grupo Alfa, President

Napolitano signed an MOU on behalf of the UC system with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the CEO Dialogue to support education and training programs for workforce development and competitiveness in North America,

President Napolitano emphasized the important role that the private sector can play in fostering academic exchanges via internships, funding of endowments, participating as guest lecturers in relevant classes and advising UC regarding workforce needs. The CEO leadership committed to reach out to its membership to explore concrete opportunities for engagement – including a challenge to offer internships – based on academic mobility models provided by the UC.

The participation by President Napolitano in the CEO Dialogue is part of ongoing efforts developed by the UC-Mexico Initiative to engage the private sector. Other activities will include a gathering convened by the Annenberg Foundation with business leaders and heads of non-profit organizations and partnering with the Wilson Center and the Annenberg Foundation to organize a high level retreat on US-Mexico educational exchanges.

Following her participation in the CEO Dialogue forum, President Napolitano met with Sergio Alcocer, then Undersecretary for North American Affairs at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Acting Mexican Ambassador to the U.S., Alejandro Estivil. The objective of the meeting was to provide a progress report on the UC-Mexico Initiative and the Bilateral Forum for Higher Education Research and Innovation (FOBESSI), in addition to discussing possible public-private partnerships to support increased academic activity between the UC system and Mexico.

Mexico across the System

Renewal of the UC-CONACYT Agreement of Cooperation

The July 2015 signing of the UC and CONACYT Agreement of Cooperation in Higher Education and Research marked the 18th year of the binational collaboration between the UC and CONACYT. First signed in 1997, the UC-CONACYT Agreement has provided annual funding opportunities for graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and faculty collaborative research projects related to Mexico. Since its inception, the Agreement has been managed by UC MEXUS, and links to the current and past agreements, along with funding opportunities, and research program results may be found on their website (<http://ucmexus.ucr.edu/>).



Proyecto SOL 2.0: addressing the needs of students in California and Mexico

The UC-Mexico initiative's Education Working Group facilitated the launch of Proyecto SOL 2.0, a bilingual, secondary online program curriculum in algebra designed to help students understand complex concepts in their own language, while they were listening to a lesson in a different language. Aligned to Common Core, this intensive, five-week algebra course was tested at West Adams Preparatory High School in Los Angeles, with the participation of 55 sophomores. Classes were taught in English with Spanish support: students heard the vocabulary in English and then toggled their computers, or looked at their worksheets to see the explanation in Spanish. Two Los Angeles math teachers, Jazmin Rodriguez and Edith Issakhanian, led the classes and were accompanied by Manuel Rosas Verdín and Eric Pulido, two math professors from the University of Guadalajara. Patricia Gandara, chair of the Education Working Group, was the project lead.



Partnership between the Berkeley Energy and Climate Institute and Tec de Monterrey



The Berkeley Energy and Climate Institute (BECI) and Tec de Monterrey hosted on June a research collaboration workshop at UC Berkeley on the topics Decarbonization, Resiliency, Renewable Energies and Transitional Pathways to Low(er) Carbon Futures. The Academic partners were joined by representation from the California Energy Commission (CEC), Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) and the UC-Mexico Energy Working Group. As a result of the workshop, the

collaborators have jointly applied to the SENER-CONACYT Joint Sustainability Fund with a proposal to develop a "Bi-National Laboratory on Smart Sustainable Energy Management and Technology Training". *For more information on this partnership, please contact Alberto Díaz (Energy, Environment and Health working groups) at alberto.diaz@ucop.edu*

Ambassador Anthony Wayne in UC Berkeley

The U.S. Ambassador to Mexico, Anthony Wayne, was in UC Berkeley in early May to receive the Global Ambassador of Peace & Public Service award from the International House. His agenda of activities included an off-campus meeting with UC President Janet Napolitano. He also met with Jaime Sepulveda and Stefano Bertozzi, co-chairs of the Health Working group of the UC-Mexico Initiative, and Horst Simon, chair of the Energy Working Group, to learn about the working group's objectives and explore possible links to Embassy resources. Amb. Wayne, who just concluded his assignment in Mexico, had an opportunity to chat with Mexican students in Berkeley under the Fulbright program.



Visit to Lawrence Berkeley Lab



About 60 top university students from Mexico visited Berkeley Lab in mid-July as part of a program aimed at promoting the formation of a new generation of Mexican leaders. Their visit was hosted by Javier Ceja-Navarro (far right), a Project Scientist in Earth Sciences who grew up in Mexico.

Read the full story [here](#).

UCSD's Center for US-Mexican Studies Summer Outreach Events



In early August 2015 the UCSD's Center for US-Mexican Studies (USMEX, <http://usmex.ucsd.edu/>) hosted their annual summer outreach in Mexico City. These events are typically attended by former fellows and summer seminar participants, along with some other friends of the center

and prospective students and fellows. The itinerary included a presentation by GPS Admissions and USMEX staff on the fellows program and on their degrees and certificated in international affairs and public policy. This was followed by a public talk at Casa Lamm by UC San Diego Professor Peter Smith titled, "*Reflexiones de un Gringo Viejo: Cambios, Crisis y Continuidad*".

Two UC Urban Humanities Initiatives Focusing on Mexico

This academic year (2015-2016), the Urban Humanities Initiative (UHI) at UCLA and the Global Urban Humanities Initiative (GUHI) at UCB, both funded by the Mellon Foundation, will be devoted to Mexico City and border culture.

The UHI at UCLA is an interdisciplinary initiative, involving the collaboration of Architecture, Urban Planning, and the Humanities. UHI offers a Certificate to Graduate Students (around 20), who will attend a seminar in Mexico City in Fall; a seminar on borders and US-Mexico border culture in Winter; and a Practice Seminar (where they will develop their collaborative projects) in Spring. During Spring Break, students will travel to Mexico City for research on their urban project.



The Fall and Winter seminars will also have a series of invited speakers from Mexico and the US. For more info, here is the UHI webpage: <http://www.urbanhumanities.ucla.edu>.

Berkeley's focus on Mexico will start with a quarter-long seminar on Mexico City: Spaces/Cultures/Histories. One of the central goals of the course is to explore the methodological limits and possibilities of "global urban humanities," an interdisciplinary framework for critical reflection and creative action that will also underpin the Spring 2016 Mellon Project Studio course on Mexico City. This project studio course will involve a field trip to Mexico City and an academic exchange in Berkeley with students from Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana-Cuajimalpa.

Additional information may be found at <http://globalurbanhumanities.berkeley.edu>.



Mexican Migration Field Research Program (MMFRP) UCSD

undergraduate and graduate students will have the opportunity to learn about issues at the intersection of health, education and migration and to engage in fieldwork in Baja California. This is a yearlong program with two tracks: Education and Health (24 units, with 3 classes and 1 group independent study section) that provides an in-depth, hands-on research experience focused on migration. Students

participating in the Education Track will work in binational teams with student partners from the Colegio de la Frontera Norte (COLEF) and the Universidad Autónoma de Baja California (UABC). For more info, here is the website: <http://ccis.ucsd.edu/programs/mmfrp/>.

Checking in with Mexican partners



Guillermo Hernandez, Chief Executive Officer at the US-Mexico Foundation for Science (FUMEC), Chancellor Kim Wilcox and Associate Chancellor Cynthia Giorgio. They pose next to the portrait of the late Riverside Congressman George E. Brown Jr., who was a founder of FUMEC, with Professor Emeritus Arturo Gomez-Pompa.

UCR Chancellor Kim Wilcox and Associate Chancellor Cynthia Giorgio held a series of meetings with Mexican partners last week in Mexico City to review the progress of the Initiative, discuss ongoing and future collaborations and prepare for the upcoming retreat on US-Mexico Educational Exchanges and Partnerships at Sunnylands.

The agenda of activities included meetings with representatives from UNAM, CONACYT, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the US-Mexico Foundation for Science (FUMEC); the U.S. Embassy; the Ministry of Education; the U.S.-Mexico Commission for Educational & Cultural Exchange (COMEXUS) and the Business Coordinating Council (CCE) a leading private sector organization in Mexico.

Mark your calendars:

Events

Frontera Fridays.- Quarterly event organized by the Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies and the Urban Studies and Planning Program at UC San Diego to connect leaders from both sides of the border to the University and to serve as a platform for learning, networking and discussing opportunities to strengthen our binational region. Focus for next session is on binational rail and freight infrastructure (August 15th, 2015)
Details: mfloca@ucsd.edu

Funding Opportunities

UC MEXUS Dissertation Grants 2015 RFP is now available; deadline is September 15, 2015 (see http://ucmexus.ucr.edu/funding/grant_dissertation.html)

Upcoming Conferences/Meetings/Seminars

20th International Meeting of the Continuing Education Network in Latin America, the Caribbean and Europe, University of Guadalajara, Sept 30-Oct 2, 2015. (see <http://recla.org/xx-encuentro-internacional/programa-academico-y-actividades-socioculturales/>)

Binational Policy Forum on Migration and Global Health. Inaugural Event for Binational Health Week. October 5, 2015. Information: <http://www.binationalhealthweek.org/policy-forum.html>

Courses

Certificate Program in California-Mexico History. (September 2-November 13, 2015-Los Angeles) presented by the Universidad de Guadalajara Foundation. Free program. Information and registration: info@udgusa.org

Strategic Framework of the Initiative is online

One of the recommendations made by the Advisory Board of the UC-Mexico Initiative last February in Ensenada was to develop a strategic framework that lays out the mission, goals and timelines for the Initiative. This document is intended to provide a comprehensive view on the context and principals that guide the efforts of the Initiative. After a process of review and approval by members of the Advisory Board, the strategic framework is now available online. Please visit the follow link to access it:

http://ucmexicoinitiative.ucr.edu/docs/Strategic_framework_FINAL.pdf



UC-Mexico Faculty Directory Database



In collaboration with UCSD's Spatial Information Systems Laboratory, the UC-Mexico Initiative developed an interactive database to showcase UC faculty with expertise or interests related to Mexico. This directory is an interactive, user-editable, online visualization of connections of University of California faculty with interests in Mexico. Each profile contains basic information about faculty involved with this Initiative. With more than 430 initial entries, the directory serves as a tool to search by keyword, discipline, region,

campus, and Mexican collaborators and institutions. We expect that this directory will enable researchers to identify collaborators and resources, areas of strength, and opportunities for collaboration.

The directory can be found under this link: <http://ucmexicoinitiative.ucr.edu/directory.html>

For further information on Proyecto SOL 2.0 or the UC-Mexico Faculty Directory Data Base, please contact Veronique Rorive (Arts and Cultures; Education and Student Mobility Task Force) at veronique.rorive@ucr.edu