



# LOOKING FORWARD:

## A Letter from ROMC Program Officer:

Dear Friends and Supporters,

*"Change is inevitable, growth is intentional."*

This quote captures the philosophy and culmination of our efforts achieved in 2009. With your support, the ROMC has become a progressive and forward thinking program where collaboration is a practice, equality is principle, and innovation is always on the agenda.

By boldly pursuing our Strategic Plan 2006-2010, we transform vision into action as evident in our successes from the past year:

- Opened our new Resource Library & Archive.
- Hosted over 75 events and provided programmatic support to a variety of university-wide events including 40th Anniversary of College of Ethnic Studies & new student Welcome Days.
- Increased our budgetary capacity and hired more staff.

In 2010, the ROMC will integrate the Art Gallery and The Depot performance space into one department, increasing our collaborative efforts and improving efficiency.

Our goals for the upcoming year include:

- Developing ongoing assessment and evaluations strategies based on student learning outcomes and engagement.
- Implementing online advocacy and research initiatives through our Resource Library & Archive.
- Developing a Strategic Plan for 2011-2015.

We also welcome Dr. Francine Shakir as our Interim Program Development Officer. Dr. Shakir has extensive knowledge and background in development learning centered environments, cultural relevant pedagogy and multicultural education. Her talent and skills will further the strategic of direction of the Richard Oakes Multicultural Center and Resource Library & Archive.

I invite you to consider investing in our program and our students with your time, talent, and resources.

In service,

**Aimée Zenzele Barnes**  
Interim Assistant Director, Program Services



1650 Holloway Avenue  
Cesar Chavez Student Center  
Business Office, C-134  
San Francisco, CA 94132

**CONTACT US**

> **ROMC**  
www.sfsustudentcenter.com/romc  
romc@sfsustudentcenter.com  
Program Officer: 415.405.0700  
> **Romc Library**  
www.romclibrary.org  
Library Assistant: 415.405.3411

**FOLLOW US**

> **Facebook** search:  
"Richard Oakes Multicultural Center"  
> **Twitter**  
twitter.com/ROMC4allvoices  
> **Blogger**  
www.RichardOakesMulticulturalCenter.blogspot.com/

**RESERVE THE ROMC**

Events at the ROMC have to further our mission to foster multi-ethnic, culturally conscious events which affirm the human and intellectual heritage of all peoples.  
> **Reserve online at:**  
www.sfsustudentcenter.com/romc

**MISSION STATEMENT:**

The Richard Oakes Multicultural Center provides a collaborative and supportive environment that promotes a multi-ethnic, culturally conscious University, affirming equally the human and intellectual heritage of all peoples.

The ROMC is dedicated to the inclusion of all voices and experiences, to the promotion of activist models of organizing and to uniting people in the active pursuit of self-determination, identity, and knowledge of personal and human experiences.

The ROMC encourages and welcomes all members of SF State and the greater community to initiate or participate in its student-focused and student-directed programs and activities.

The classroom has its own history, its own set of rules and its own language, all of which can exclude students from diverse ethnicities. The ROMC, housed in a student-governed and student-staffed building, creates a different environment. As a place to call their own, students and community members can continue to learn beyond the classroom. These lessons empower people to foster change both on campus and in the communities that surround it.



*Top: Aztec dancer after the sunrise ceremony on Alcatraz Island, which this year commemorated the 1969-1971 occupation by "Indians of All Tribes."*

*Bottom: Students were able to join the 4000 attendees and record Native Americans who had been present during the occupation. Photos courtesy of Salvador Sanchez Strawbridge*

**40th Anniversary of the Occupation of Alcatraz Project**

On November 26, 1969, American Indians occupied Alcatraz Island for nineteen months. The occupation attracted international attention and support and launched a new era in American Indian activism. The tangible results of the occupation and the indigenous rights movements included recognition of the history of relations between native peoples and the government and a raft of federal legislation granting additional political and economic sovereignty to American Indian tribes and the return of hundreds of thousands of acres of native lands.

*"Students were engaged in every aspect of this historic documentation of veterans involved in the original occupation of Alcatraz—an event that launched the 'Red Power' movement."*

—Phil Klasky

20 students from SF State, CSU East Bay and CSU San Diego headed over to Alcatraz Island on November 25, 2009, with Phil Klasky, lecturer in American Indian Studies at SF State. They spent the night on the island and filmed the arrival of 4000 people attending the annual Indigenous Peoples Sunrise Ceremony. The students recorded the reflections of "culture keepers" and Alcatraz veterans at this historic occasion, including Bill Means, Clyde Bellecourt and Morning Star Gali. These materials will be available at the ROMC library, on our website (www.romclibrary.org), and will be featured at an exhibit at the Cesar Chavez Student Center's Art Gallery in Fall 2010.

The 40th College of Ethnic conference was a great success! join the last two panels happening today! #COES40  
2:38 PM Oct 9th, 2009 from web

learn about the Chicana/Latina/Indigenous Pathfinders & their impact on today's challenges in the ROMC 3p-5p  
2:37 PM Oct 9th, 2009 from web

"I try to find struggle and resistance in small places as much as I can. This is what I learned at SF State ..." Danny Glover, Class of '71  
2:23 PM Oct 9th, 2009 from web

Where do we go from here? What's your vision of the future? Go to Jack Adams Hall and let us know. #COES40  
2:21 PM Oct 9th, 2009 from web

**Active Voices**

The ROMC participated in the 3 day conference celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the College of Ethnic Studies, which brought together academics and community activists to evaluate the future role of Ethnic Studies. We experimented with a new program using Twitter to allow conference attendees to 'tweet' about their thoughts and to bring the conference to the world wide web.

## Native American Mural

The ROMC has been working closely with the students and faculty on the Cesar Chavez Student Center's Art Committee. And on November 20, 2009 the new Native American Mural was unveiled on the outside of the Student Center. The mural depicts community activism, self determination, resistance and survival of Native American peoples, and the defense of native lands.

The mural was commissioned in October 2005 by the Student Center's Governing Board to complete the 7 permanent art spaces on the outside of the building. The ROMC was thrilled to co-sponsor the unveiling, having been heavily involved in the project from the outset.

Marc Nicely, the primary artist, worked closely with the committee to depict the chosen themes, including the connection between

the SF State Strike in '68-'69 and the Occupation of Alcatraz Island around the same time. He collaborated with Larry Sillaway (Yurok tribe of Northern California). We were also honored to host members of Richard Oakes family, including his cousin, children and grandchildren. The mural was unveiled by Richard Oakes' widow, Annie Oakes.

The event was not dimmed by the strong winds and rain that started the day, and the



The Native American mural committee was honored to welcome Richard Oakes' family members to the dedication ceremony.

*"The significance of this mural is to show the world and our campus community on a daily basis a visual reminder that American Indians are still here."* —Melissa Nelson

250 attendees were able to sit inside the Student Center for many of the cultural performances. Eddie Madril (Pascua Yaqui), SF State student, danced a grass dance in preparation for the celebratory ceremony of the unveiling. Melissa Nelson, Associate Professor of American Indian Studies, summed up the importance of the mural. "One of the biggest issues for Native Americans is that we are often invisible. We have suffered from what many call the

politics of erasure. We are erased from history books, from the media. People think that we are extinct, that we are no longer around. And the theme of our mural is "We Are Still Here". The significance of this mural is to show the world and our campus community on a daily basis a visual reminder that American Indians are still here. We are educated. We are in universities, in media, in business, in science and we have faith in our future and in our ancestors as native people."



## ROMC Library

The ROMC Resource Library & Archive has officially opened, due to a grant from the San Francisco Foundation. We have welcomed our first student assistant, Christine Chua, who has had the fun of processing our book donations and new periodicals. We had 2 sneak peak events, where we introduced the space and materials to students, staff and faculty at SF State. We also had the opportunity to gather feedback for the future direction of the program.

For our hours, and more information, including archival pictures from the 40th occupation, check out the website: [www.romclibrary.org](http://www.romclibrary.org)

## HONOR YOUR GRADUATES

Graduation is always a huge achievement and a time of transition. Leave a legacy at SF State to inspire future students and community activists, and have friends and family members donate a book in your name. Materials in the ROMC can provide inspiration for life beyond college, telling the stories of people fighting for their rights over a whole lifetime.

Have a book donated in your name, and remember to come and visit us again and tell us about your new endeavours. For more info, visit: [www.romclibrary.org/donate](http://www.romclibrary.org/donate)

### 2009-2010 ROMC RESOURCE LIBRARY & ARCHIVE DONORS:

Aaron Mort  
Aimée Z. Barnes  
Damon Hom  
Edina Bajraktarevic  
Franko Ali  
Guy Dalpe  
John Saadeh  
Katherine Day  
Nathian Robinson  
Samuel Brown  
Vernon Piccinotti

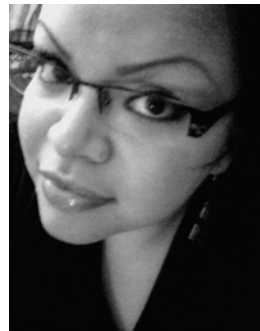
#### Publication Donors

Aimée Z. Barnes  
Angela Y. Davis  
College of Ethnic Studies  
Joseph L. White  
LeAnne Howe  
Lili Cortez  
Mary Keller  
Project Connect  
R. Mike Blumensaadt  
Richard G. Green  
Rigoberta Menchú  
SFSU Bookstore

#### Media Donors

Cory Wong  
Isabelle Pelaud  
Max Hampton  
Nina Chan  
Phil M. Klasky

*Many thanks to our donors for their support and generosity.*



## Spotlight on a Donor: Lili Cortez

Lili Cortez has made a generous donation of books to the ROMC library. Lili served on the SCGB (the Cesar Chavez Student Center's board, which has ultimate responsibility of the Center) for two consecutive terms. She first heard about the SCGB when she was active in MEChA and La Raza Student Organization.

*"I want these books to support the future users by allowing them to continue to learn and keep an open mind to the diversity of people that exist on campus."*

"I heard about the SCGB and I was very interested in becoming more active and in making some changes. Changes that were needed because I had experienced some things that needed to be better for the students. Being part of the SCGB has made my college experience phenomenal."

We asked Lili why she had chosen to donate these books to us. She says, "I donated the books because I want to give back to a center that has give me so much. I want to support ROMC so it continues to promote 'a multi-ethnic, culturally conscious University.' I could have donated these books to many other places and not know what the use of them were going to be, but I know the purpose of ROMC and I support it."

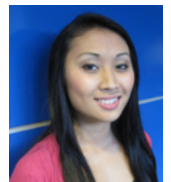
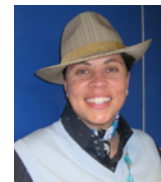
We also asked Lili how she wants the books to benefit future users. Lili's shares, "I want these books to support the future users by allowing them to continue to learn and keep an open mind to the diversity of people that exist on campus."

Thank you again Lili for your generosity and your support.

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The ROMC is a program of the Cesar Chavez Student Center, at San Francisco State University. For financial information about the Student Center please visit: [www.sfsustudentcenter.com/about](http://www.sfsustudentcenter.com/about)

## MEET THE ROMC STAFF



order from left to right, top to bottom:

#### **Aimée Z. Barnes:**

Interim Assistant Director, Program Service

#### **Francine O. Shakir:**

Interim Program Development Officer

#### **Katherine Day:**

Fund & Resource Development Officer

#### **Christine Chua:**

ROMC Library Assistant

## **Richard Oakes Multicultural Center**

1650 Holloway Avenue  
Cesar Chavez Student Center  
Business Office, C-134  
San Francisco, CA 94132  
[romc@sfsustudentcenter.com](mailto:romc@sfsustudentcenter.com)  
415.405.0700