Guide to the Rene Nuñez Memorial Collection 1968/2008

Special Collections & University Archives

Overview of the Collection

Collection Title: Rene Nuñez Memorial Collection
Dates: 1968-2008
Bulk Dates: 1972-2006
Identification: MS-0434
Creator: Nuñez, Rene, 1936-2006
Physical Description: 3.96 linear ft
Language of Materials: English, Spanish, Castilian
Repository: Special Collections & University Archives
5500 Campanile Dr. MC 8050
San Diego, CA, 92182-8050
URL: http://library.sdsu.edu/scua
Email: scref@rohan.sdsu.edu
Phone: 619-594-6791

Note:
Other Information:
This collection was processed as part of the Chicana and Chicano Studies Archives Project, made possible by a grant from the President's Leadership Fund.

Biographical Information:
The son of immigrants, Rene Nuñez was born in 1936 and raised in San Diego. He graduated from San Diego High School in 1955, and joined the army four years later. After leaving the army, Nuñez attended the University of California, Los Angeles where he received his Bachelor's degree in Spanish in 1967. During this time, he worked as the Director of the Educational Clearinghouse, a college outreach program for Chicano/a and African-American students living in LA's underprivileged neighborhoods. As an activist dedicated to improving Chicano education, Nuñez participated in the 1968 Chicano Student Walkouts, and helped to organize the Biltmore Hotel educational demonstration of 1968. He was arrested as part of the "Biltmore 10." He played a major role in the 1969 UC Santa Barbara Conference of Chicano students, professors, and activists. The conference discussed educational issues in the Chicano community, and resulted in the creation of "El Plan," a blueprint for the codification of Chicano Studies programs at the university level. Several universities implemented the plan the following year. The conference also established the Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan (MEChA). In addition to this work, Nuñez was active in the anti-war movement as well.

In 1969, Nuñez became Director of the Centro de Estudios Chicanos at SDSU. He formally joined the faculty in 1971, and helped to develop the curriculum for the Chicana and Chicano Studies department. In his classes, Nuñez promoted the principles of the Chicano Movement, celebrated Chicano history and culture, and encouraged community outreach and involvement. In 1972, Nuñez received a Master's degree in Urban Studies from Occidental College. In 1985, he obtained a Master's in Political Science from UCSD, and in 1994 he acquired a joint doctorate in education from SDSU and Claremont Graduate University.

In 2002, Nuñez retired as Professor Emeritus of Chicano Studies. He continued teaching and remained an active participant in the San Diego County Latino Coalition for Education, the National Association of Chicana and Chicano Studies (NACCS), the Latino Education Summit, and La Rama de Padres Latinos. Nuñez died in 2006. Faculty at SDSU held a “Teach-In and Call to Action” in honor of Nuñez.

Access Terms
This collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

Corporate Name:
Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan de U.C.S.B.

Genre/Form of Material:
Audio Recordings
Guide to the Rene Núñez Memorial Collection

Title:
San Diego State University. Chicana and Chicano Studies

Topical Term:
Chicano movement--California

Acquisition Information:
Materials in this collection were compiled and donated by Richard Griswold on 18 October 2007.

Accruals:
2009-043, 2012-025.

Separated Materials:
Several independent newspapers from this collection have been added to the Radical Ephemera and Underground Publications Collection

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Conditions Governing Access:
This collection is open for research.

Preferred Citation:
Identification of item, folder title, box number, Rene Núñez Memorial Collection, Special Collections and University Archives, Library and Information Access, San Diego State University.

Chicano Federation of San Diego County Records, 1968-1980
Carmen Sandoval Fernandez Poster Collection, 1974-1983
Arturo Casares Papers, 1968-2007
Maria Garcia Papers, 1968-1997

Scope and Contents
The Rene Núñez Memorial Collection, assembled after Núñez's death, documents his work in promoting educational equity and parent involvement, and his help in founding the Chicano Studies Department at SDSU. Filed alphabetically, the collection includes educational treatises, academic papers, newspaper clippings, correspondence, and materials relating to Núñez's memorial service at San Diego State University. The collection dates from 1968 to 2008.

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30th Anniversary of Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan (MEChA) and the Department of Chicana and Chicano Studies December 8, 2000

Box 1, Folder 2
30th Anniversary Photographs December 2000

Box 1, Folder 3
"Allison's 'Essence of Decision' and US/Nicaraguan Relations" by Núñez December 6, 1984

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