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Davidson Library  
Department of Special Collections  
California Ethnic and Multicultural Archives

**GUIDE TO THE  
MEChA COLLECTION  
1968-1979 [BULK DATES 1968-1970]**

**Collection Number:** CEMA 36.

**Size Collection:** 1.75 linear feet (4 document boxes and 1 oversize box).

**Acquisition Information:** Donated by UCSB Center for Chicano Studies via Coleccion Tloque Nahuaque.

**Access restrictions:** None.

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## HISTORY OF MEChA

The civil rights and student movements of the 1960's resulted in the birth of numerous activist and militant organizations. Within the Chicana/o Movement, groups such as the Brown Berets, La Junta and ALMA were organizing in communities and barrios, and by the late 1960's student groups such as MASA (Mexican American Student Association), UMAS (United Mexican American Students) and MASC (Mexican American Student Conference) in California and MAYO (Mexican American Youth Organization) in Texas were working to organize students, faculty and staff in colleges and universities.

In September 1967, Sal Castro, a Mexican American teacher at Lincoln High School began meeting with students at the Piranya Coffee House in Los Angeles and making them aware of the disparities and neglect involving the current educational system. As more students became aware of the bleak conditions the need for an immediate change became apparent. In March 1968 almost ten thousand Chicano students walked out of five Los Angeles high schools: Lincoln, Roosevelt, Garfield, Belmont and Wilson. The next ten days became referred to as the East Los Angeles Blow-Outs that eventually involved over ten thousand students. After the Blow-Outs, a group of student activists, faculty and administrators formed the Chicano Coordinating Committee on Higher Education (CCCHE) with the goal of forming a statewide network of community and campus activists, in order to put pressure on campus administrators for further expansion of equal opportunity programs.

Rene Nuñez was a community activist from San Diego who, after visiting many high school and college campuses in California, saw similarities in problems relating to student recruitment and retention. Nuñez is credited with having proposed a statewide conference under the support of CCCHE with the purpose of discussion and creation of a plan of action, which would seek to resolve these problems. Meanwhile, in March 1969, Crusade for Justice sponsored the first National Chicano Youth Liberation Conference in Denver, Colorado. It was at this conference that a group of youths drafted the basic premises for the Chicana/o Movement in *El Plan de Aztlán*. A synopsis of the plan states:

- 1) We are Chicanas and Chicanos of Aztlán reclaiming the land of our birth (Chicana/Chicano Nation);
- 2) Aztlán belongs to indigenous people, who are sovereign and not subject to a foreign culture;
- 3) We are a union of free pueblos forming a bronze Chicana/Chicano Nation;
- 4) Chicano nationalism, as the key to mobilization and organization, is the common denominator to bring consensus to the Chicana/Chicano Movement;
- 5) Cultural values strengthen our identity as *La Familia de la Raza*;
- 6) *El Plan de Aztlán*, as a basic plan of Chicana/Chicano liberation, sought the formation of an independent national political party that would represent the sentiments of the Chicana/Chicano community.

Approximately one month later, CCCHE held their conference; in April 1969 a group of Chicana/o students came to UCSB for a conference to formulate a plan for higher education that would be committed to Chicano cultural nationalism, self-determination and education of Chicano youth. The resulting plan was titled *El Plan de Santa Barbara*, which stressed that every effort be taken to educate *la Raza*. As part of this plan, student leaders from MASA, UMAS and MASC decided that in order to unify the efforts of Chicanas/os in academia, those student groups involved with *El Plan de Santa Barbara* would need a new name, which would surpass regionalism and localism while aligning the goals and philosophy of *El Plan Espiritual de Aztlán* and *El Plan de Santa Barbara*. *El Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán* was a group already in existence on a few college campuses and, due to the intense significance of the implications of each word, the name was accepted and a statewide MEChA was officially born, founded on principles of self-determination for the liberation of Chicanas/os, Latinas/os, and Mexican Americans.

Another important development of *El Plan de Santa Barbara* was in laying the foundation for Chicano Studies departments on college campuses. Today, MEChA is a California statewide network of Chicano and Latino student organizations in the colleges, universities, high schools and junior high schools that maintains its role fighting for the educational rights of Chicanas/os: to increase access and retention, to strengthen Chicano Studies and to combat racism.

## SCOPE NOTE

This collection began as a donation from the Coleccion Tloque Nahuaque, the UCSB Chicano Studies Library, which in turn received it from the Center for Chicano Studies. Originally named the "MEChA Collection," it is evident that it was so named due to contents that appeared to have been compiled by students who were members of the MEChA organization, six of whom were appointed by UC President Hitch to an advisory committee on the operations of a newly established Center for Chicano Studies. Ernesto Perez was one such student and a number of these files were addressed to him. The materials are believed to relate to the creation and inception of MEChA, through the JUNTA Directiva.

## SERIES DESCRIPTION

**Series I: Notes from the JUNTA.** This series is contained in one box and includes notes, correspondence and documentation of the proposals for the creation of the Center for Chicano Studies and the Chicano Studies Department at UCSB. The series includes documents concerning the organization and structure, requirements and recommendations for faculty, appointment of faculty, coordinating organizations such as EOP (Educational Opportunity Program), the creation of a special section for Chicano related materials in the UCSB library, and a mandate for Chicano scholarship. All the materials in this series are from 1969 and are kept in the order they were in upon their donation. This order was determined by subject matter and so many documents appear out of chronological order.

**Series II: MEChA, Chicano Studies and Related Organizations.** This series is arranged according to hierarchy and then chronologically within hierarchical groupings. Primarily Ernesto Perez collected materials in Series II during his term as student chairman at MEChA. The files mainly cover the time period from 1968 to 1970. They include notes from MEChA meetings and correspondence from MEChA with other organizations and documentation on many Chicano Issues. The files have been divided into their subject groupings and arranged chronologically where possible.

**Series III: Correspondence.** This series includes general incoming and outgoing correspondence files maintained by MEChA as well as correspondence relating to specific ideas, such as a Chicano Community Film Research project and correspondence with UC Communications. As Ernesto Perez primarily collected this series, much of the correspondence is addressed directly to him. The files have been divided into their subject groupings and arranged chronologically where possible; those correspondence files, which are not related to a specific project, are titled General Correspondence.

**Series IV: Conferences.** This series includes materials gathered by MEChA from various conferences. The files have been arranged chronologically.

**Series V: Subject Files.** This series has been maintained separately from *Series V: Miscellany* because they were kept under General Research in the original collection. They have been arranged here alphabetically and cover a variety of Chicano topics outside of the MEChA administration.

**Series VI: Miscellany.** This series contains files that could be subject files however they have been maintained here separately from *Series IV: Subject Files* to maintain the creator's provenance and are arranged alphabetically by title. In 1998 Yolanda Marquez, while studying for her PHD in Chicano Studies, wrote a series of detailed notes about this portion of the collection. These notes have been preserved with the collection and provide a very detailed breakdown of the contents.

## RELATED COLLECTIONS

Center for Chicano Studies, Department of Chicano Studies, José Joel García Collection (CMEA 73).

## CONTAINER LIST

### SERIES I: NOTES FROM LA JUNTA DIRECTIVA

Box	Folder	Contents
1	1	Junta Notes, 1969, n.d. Center for Chicano Studies
1	2	Correspondence between Chancellor Cheadle and JUNTA, 1969
1	2	Proposal for Chicano Studies Program, draft, 1969
1	2	Proposal for Chicano Studies Program, includes charts for table of organization, 1969
1	2	Proposal for Teatro MEChA, n.d.
1	2	Proposals for Curriculum Changes in the Education Department at UCSB, 1969
1	3	Chicano Studies Program, Curriculum Committee Report, ca. 1969
1	4	Community Studies, includes Proposal for the Colonia Centro Universitario, 1969, n.d. Correspondence
1	5	Appointment of faculty and staff for Junta and Center for Chicano Center, 1969
1	5	Budget considerations, 1969
1	5	EOP, 1969
1	5	Recruitment, 1969
1	5	Ca. 1969
1	6	Curriculum review, other institutions, ca. 1969

### SERIES II: MEChA, CHICANO STUDIES AND RELATED ORGANIZATIONS

Box	Folder	Contents
		MEChA (El Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztán)
1	7	MEChA Operations Office n.d.
1	8	Orientation Fall, 1969
1	9	Commission to Evaluate Summer MEChA Projects, Committees and Activities, Summer Program Evaluation, 1970
1	10	Teatro MEChA, notes and proposal for Teatro MEChA Summer Project, 1970
1	11	Evaluation of MEChA library unit, 1970
1	12	MEChA Summer objectives, 1973
		Chicano Studies
1	13	Proposal for a Chicano Department within the Third World College at UC Berkeley, n.d.
1	14	Curriculum Committee, 1969
1	15	Chicano Studies positions, recruitment correspondence, 1969
1	16	Graduate Recruitment, 1970 General information, 1970
1	17	Meeting Notes
1	17	Report on Chicano Studies Program in California
1	17	Miscellany
1	18	History course notes, 1970
1	19	La Raza National Law Student Association, contains a special issue of <i>The Writ</i> with a section dedicated to the Chicano Student Convention (see Box 5 Folder 1), 1970
1	20	Center for Chicano Studies, UC Berkeley's <i>Chicano Studies Newsletter</i> and Santa Barbara notices (see Box 5 Folder 2), 1970
1	21	Newspaper articles, 1971
1	22	Chicano History Calendar, circa 1974
		EOP (Educational Opportunity Program)
2	1	Students, 1968

2	2	Applicant statistics by school, 1969
2	3	Evaluation Committee, 1969
2	4	Newsletter, 1969
2	5	Roster, 1969
2	6	Mobilization Committee, 1970
2	7	Recruitment and support, 1971
		UMAS (United Mexican American Students)
2	8	Voz de UMAS, pamphlets for conferences and correspondence pertaining to UMAS, n.d. General information, 1969-1970
2	9	<i>The Cardinal</i> , Santa Paula High School, Vol. 39 No. 3, 1968
5	3	<i>Community Newsletter</i> , n.d.
5	4	<i>El Gaucho</i> , Vol. 49 No. 17, 1968
2	10	Meeting Notes
2	11	Miscellany
2	12	Statements to Campus by UMAS/MEChA, 1969-1970
2	13	UC Chicano Steering Committee, meeting minutes and agendas, 1970-1971

### **SERIES III: CORRESPONDENCE**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Contents</b>
		Chicano Community Film Project
2	14-16	Incoming, 1970-1972
2	17	Incoming, n.d.
2	18	Outgoing, 1972
		General Correspondence
2	19	Incoming, 1969
2	20	Incoming 1970-1971
3	1	Incoming, 1972
3	2	Incoming, n.d.
3	3	Outgoing, 1971
3	4	UC Communications, Ernesto Perez, 1972
3	5	UC Communications Committee, Ernesto Perez, 1972

### **SERIES IV: CONFERENCES**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Contents</b>
3	6	Workshop for recruitment and admissions, n.d.
3	7	Davis Chicano symposium, 1968 La Semana de La Raza
3	8	Correspondence, 1968
3	9	Job description and progress reports
3	10	Definitions of La Raza
3	11	Statewide Conference on Higher Education, 1969
3	12	UMAS Clairmont conference, 1969
3	13	United Front, 1969
3	14	Regional conference, 1969-1970
3	15	Chicano Council for Higher Education, 1970
3	16	Concilio, 1970
3	17	Washington Conference, 1970

**SERIES V: SUBJECT FILES**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Contents</b>
3	18	Additions to bibliographies, including correspondence, 1972-1974, n.d.
3	19	Alex Mailer-leaflets, n.d.
3	20	Bibliographies, 1968-1969, n.d.
3	21	Community, 1968-1970
3	22	Galarza <i>La mula no nació arisca</i> , n.d.
4	23	General Documents, 1969-1970, n.d.
3	24	LEG council proposal #80, n.d.
3	25	LEG council resolutions 1969
3	26	Newspaper clippings of the late 1960's
3	27	People's Park, 1969, n.d.
3	28	Regents corporate holdings, n.d.
4	1	<i>Relevancy to the Chicano Is</i> , Santa Barbara High School/School District, 1969
4	2	Santa Barbara Position on Moratorium, 1970

**SERIES VI: MISCELLANY**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Contents</b>
4	3	Black Studies, 1969
4	4	Brief of Amici Curiae, 1976
4	5	Caucus C.O.R.O, includes <i>Coro</i> Vol. 1 Nos. 1-3 (see Box 5 Folder 6), 1979
4	6	<i>Chancellor's Letter</i> , 1969
4	7	<i>Educational Planning for Santa Barbara School District and Santa Barbara High School District</i> , 1979
4	8	Los Angeles Times articles, ca. 1989
4	9	Marquez, Yolanda, Notes for dissertation, 1998
4	10	<i>Master Planning for the Future</i> , Santa Barbara School District/High School District Final Report, 1969
4	11	Position papers, EOP, ca. 1969
5	5	<i>La Raza Unida de Ohio Newsletter</i> , 1971
6	1	History of M.E.Ch.A
6	2	El Plan de M.E.Ch.A
6	3	Chicano Student Movement
6	4	<i>Santa Barbara Community Union Newsletter</i> , 1971-1972 1 of 4
6	5	<i>Santa Barbara Community Union Newsletter</i> , 1971-1972 2 of 4
6	6	<i>Santa Barbara Community Union Newsletter</i> , 1971-1972 3 of 4
6	7	<i>Santa Barbara Community Union Newsletter</i> , 1971-1972 4 of 4
4	12	UC Caucus Official delegation, n.d.