

UC Santa Barbara

Go Global Newsletter

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Newsletter for Global & International Studies Program and Orfalea Center for Global & International Studies
University of California, Santa Barbara

UCSB Kicks Off First Year of Global Studies Graduate Program with Support from the Orfalea Family Foundation and UCSB Orfalea Center



Paul J. Orfalea

The Orfalea Center for Global & International Studies, inaugurated in the 2005-06 academic year, provides an intellectual and programmatic focus for the University's activities in global, international, and area studies. The Center also provides financial support and arrangement facilities to sponsor public programs, seminars, publications, and research planning for units across the campus.

The Center is named in appreciation of the gift provided by the Orfalea family and the Orfalea Family Foundation. According to Mark Juergensmeyer, the Center's director, "The Center will tap into a great diversity of creative energy on campus." Juergensmeyer added that "it will help to stimulate discussion and research into a wide range of intellectual issues related to contemporary world affairs."

The Orfalea Center is administratively located in the division of social sciences in the College of Letters and Sciences. Its staff includes a director, program coordinator, office manager, and publications coordinator. The Center's Executive Committee includes representatives from departments in the social sciences and the humanities. An advisory committee for the Orfalea Center includes representatives of all units on campus that want to be involved in the Center's mission and activities.

The Orfalea Center, like the University's Interdisciplinary Humanities Center, does not administer academic programs or conduct research on its own. Instead, it plays a supportive role in animating the intellectual life on campus with regard to global and international issues. It works closely with instructional and research units and also extends support to other groups and individuals throughout the campus, subject to the availability of funds.

Strongly connected to the Center is the new graduate M.A. program in Global and International Studies. The M.A. program shares with the Orfalea Center the funding provided by the the Orfalea Family Foundation for the promotion of global and international studies at UCSB. Fall 2006 marks the arrival of its inaugural class.

UCSB's new graduate program, which offers a master's degree in global and international studies, will train students for careers in international affairs, government service, and multinational business. It will differ from other master's degree programs in the field in both its global approach and its emphasis on a growing "third sector" of non-profit, non-governmental organizations working in a wide variety of areas, including environmental protection and economic development as well as human rights.

"As the world becomes more interconnected, we need to understand the processes and interactions that bring people together across traditional boundaries." - Paul Orfalea

"This program will provide a new kind of education for a new kind of career," explained Richard Appelbaum, professor of sociology and global studies, and Director of the Masters Program. "International non-government organizations have become leaders of global civil society, and we want to help prepare the leaders for these organizations."

"As the world becomes more interconnected, we need to understand the processes and interactions that bring people together across traditional boundaries," said Orfalea. "UC Santa Barbara will have one of the first graduate programs and centers in international studies in the nation to focus on issues of globalization. This program will provide special training for those seeking to work internationally in non-governmental organizations whose activities – on issues ranging from economic development to human rights – improve the human condition. We are delighted to support the campus in this significant endeavor."

The multi-year Orfalea commitment enabled the university to launch the new graduate program quickly to ensure its future. In tandem with the foundation's financial commitment, the campus has dedicated faculty and facilities to meet the needs of the new program.

The Orfalea Center for Global & International Studies is grateful to Cox business services for helping to sponsor this event.





Orfalea Center Inaugural Celebration, November 2005. Left to right: Prof. Giles Gunn, Prof. Dominic Sachsenmaier, Prof. Gurinder Singh Mann, Chancellor Henry Yang, Paul Orfalea, Prof. Mark Juergensmeyer, Prof. Richard Appelbaum, Executive Vice Chancellor Gene Lucas, and Dean Melvin Oliver.

“UCSB is extremely grateful to Paul, Natalie, and the Orfalea Family Foundation for their extraordinary contribution to global and international studies and the excellence of the campus,” said UCSB Chancellor Henry T. Yang. “Their vision and commitment to create a program and center that focus on the complex issues of globalization will set the international standard for this dynamic interdisciplinary field.”

Melvin Oliver, dean of social sciences, explained that “it would not have been possible to launch the new master’s program without the special support of the Orfalea Family Foundation. It speaks to the commitment and expertise of our faculty in global studies, and it will enable us to offer one of the most exciting and stimulating M.A. programs anywhere, and to position UCSB to become a global leader in this important interdisciplinary field.”

More than 700 undergraduate students now major in global studies at UCSB. There are also 20 graduate students enrolled in doctoral programs in six academic departments that have added an emphasis in global studies.

Paul, Natalie and the Orfalea Family Foundation are generous benefactors of UCSB. Their past leadership gifts to the campus include \$2 million to the Orfalea Family Children’s Center, named in memory of Paul’s parents, and support for the Gevirtz Graduate School of Education. In addition, they have provided financial support for intercollegiate athletics, physical education and recreation, and lactation rooms at UCSB.

Paul Orfalea Teaches Successful Global Business Seminar

For the past four years, Paul Orfalea has been a Distinguished Lecturer in the global studies program, where he has taught a popular seminar in global business twice each year. Global studies students have been greatly influenced by Paul’s interactive teaching style and the way he has integrated his life experiences into the seminar. Following are quotes from some of Paul’s students.

“The most valuable thing I have learned from Paul Orfalea is that Wall Street does not have all the answers. Ordinary people like you and me who can recognize opportunity in the world’s uncertainty can become successful. This is an empowering idea that has helped to prepare me for approaching the future with confidence.”

-Casey Boome, Global Studies Alum

“Hearing his stories and spending time with him outside of class stirred an incredible level of excitement in me in pursuit of my ambitions. The unique privilege we had as a class was to get a head start in discussing our plans and steps we want to take in our personal ventures.”

-Raffi Arslanian, Jr., Global Studies Alum and new Co-Business Owner of Ultimate Aquarium in Isla Vista

“From the first day, Paul taught us the importance of presenting yourself as an intelligent, prepared, and proud person. Thank you, Paul, for a great class, teaching us from your life’s experiences, and showing us that young people can set goals and have the most resiliency to take chances. This was the best class of my four years at UCSB and the most influential.”

-Sarah Niss, Global Studies Alum

“The fact that Paul is willing to donate his time to teaching is incredible. I learned a great deal from his class, both about business and life. I hope that he continues teaching so that he can inspire other students to confront the approaching uncertainty of post-graduation life with confidence.”

-Ryan Bushek, Global Studies Alum

“The greatest mistake in business is to make decisions based on past success.” - Paul Orfalea, speaking to students in his Global 194 class, Fall 2004



Global & International Studies faculty, staff and members of the Fall 2006 inaugural class for the Master of Arts in Global & International Studies program.