

# DECADE Press

University of California, Irvine  
 DECADE Student Council Publication

The Diverse Educational Community and Doctoral Experience (DECADE) is sponsored by a FIPSE comprehensive grant aimed at increasing the number of women and underrepresented minorities receiving doctoral degrees at UCI. This publication is made possible by contributions from students serving on the DECADE Student Council.

## Graduate Dean’s Message



This Fall Quarter it has been great to see how the visibility and passion for the DECADE initiative has grown within the community of graduate students and faculty here at UC Irvine. As we head to the holidays, I encourage you to take charge of your graduate student career. As part of UCI’s thriving research community you have

access to multiple resources that are in place to support you. In addition to the resources of your academic unit, these include the Graduate Division, Graduate Resource Center (GRC), UCI Libraries, Counseling Center, International Center, Career Center, Disability Services Center, and Associated Graduate Students (AGS). These resources, and all of the efforts behind them, will go in vain if you do not use them. As a member of our community, you also have a role. Your role as a graduate student at UCI is to: (1) Take responsibility for your success; be an active learner, and seek help if you, or others you know, are in need. (2) Take advantage of your opportunities; use campus resources, attend professional development workshops, and be proactive in seeking and applying for funding. (3) Learn to communicate effectively; build relationships across campus and beyond, and learn to be effective as both mentor and mentee. I am certain if you commit to and fulfill your role, you will enjoy your experience as you create your future here at UCI.

Frances Leslie  
 Graduate Dean

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*Did you know?*

With nearly 28,000 students, 1,100 faculty members and 9,000 staff, the University of California, Irvine is among the most dynamic campuses in the University of California system.

## DECADE Speaker Series: Reflections on Dr. Phillip Atiba Goff

Written by Soledad Mochel & Manuel Del Alto

The DECADE community started the 2013 fall quarter with an exciting and stimulating guest speaker, Dr. Phillip Atiba Goff (Assistant Professor of Social Psychology, UCLA; President of the Center for Policing Equity). Currently, Dr. Goff investigates the relationship between institutional processes and their role in perpetuating implicit racial and gender disparities. During a provocative hour-long seminar, he introduced new language, concepts, and offered meaningful insights into how such processes can have profound effects on UCI's students and faculty.



*Dr. Phillip Goff, UCLA*

The idea of combating implicit bias as it relates to race, but without being overtly racist seemed unorthodox to many in attendance; however, Dr. Goff shared experiences that facilitated our understanding of these concepts and their effects. Dr. Goff's work has allowed him to work with police departments across the U.S., and learn about their institutional practices, through observation and his own first-hand participation. Dr. Goff has taken on challenges that most academics would find frightening, for example riding with police patrol units, in an effort to better understand the correlation between police brutality, foot-pursuits, and arrest procedures. Based on this experience, Dr. Goff improved arrest procedures by suggesting that officers primarily involved in foot-pursuits should refrain from also being the arresting officer once the pursuit has ended. By removing the adrenaline-filled officer from the arrest procedure, Dr. Goff was able to significantly lower police violence on minority suspects. This particular example clearly portrays the intersection between Dr. Goff's research interests on institutional processes as they relate to racial bias and the first-hand experience of the quotidian interactions where such policies are put into praxis.

The DECADE Student Council has taken the time to reflect on this thought-provoking visit. In particular, DECADE Student Council member, Manuel del Alto, was interested in Dr. Goff's work on "masculine threat" as it more accurately predicts police violence against minority populations than does explicit racist attitudes, a further complication of Dr. Goff's "racism without racists" concept. We also learned about "slow and fast traps," which problematized the natural tendency of the preoccupied human mind to make seemingly logical shortcuts that can have profound implications based on racial bias. We are eager to learn how such 'traps' may influence our academic institution and are committed to creating an environment where UCI's diverse community is cognizant of such 'traps' and their potentially harmful effects on campus climate. I conclude with some thought provoking questions that Vladimir Ochoa, former DECADE student council Co-Chair, posed while reflecting on Dr. Goff's visit.

1. What are the most valuable lessons learned from Dr. Goff's presentation?
2. Bearing in mind Dr. Goff's work, how can DECADE re-evaluate our own operations and practices?
3. What are some tangible ways this learning experience has improved climate for URM's on our campus?

## Gaining a Competitive Edge

Written and Interviewed by Kelly Ward



Late June brought thirty-two incoming doctoral students to UCI as a part of Graduate Division's Competitive Edge program. The students, representing nine schools and twenty departments across campus, worked for eight weeks on research projects in their field. The program's goal is to reduce the effects of institutional barriers associated with race, ethnicity, and gender on individual students who come from populations that are underrepresented in graduate programs. Participants of Competitive Edge are paired with faculty mentors and peer mentors who work with them over the course of the program to get academically and socially acclimated to graduate education. Participants also attended numerous academic and professional development workshops at the Graduate Resource Center and had the opportunity to network with fellow students as well as faculty from a variety of disciplines. The program concluded with a Summer Research Symposium in which the students presented their research to the UCI community.

Students had this to say about Competitive Edge:

*"...I can tell that I have gained a head start on the NSF Fellowship Application process, I've gained early access to services for grad students at UCI, and I've gained a comfort with the materials and campus that I'm sure will ease the transition to classes and teaching."*

*"I think I will always remember how unsure I was about organizing and presenting my ideas, research and writing, and how great it felt when all of it was accepted by my peers and colleagues. The most memorable experience during this program has been the realization that I do belong here."*

## 2013 Competitive Edge Cohort

<b>Amanda Acevedo</b>	<i>Psychology &amp; Social Behavior</i>	<b>Kathryn Ringland</b>	<i>Information &amp; Computer Science</i>
<b>Analy Castillo</b>	<i>Environmental Engineering</i>	<b>Kathryn Rodgers</b>	<i>Computer Science</i>
<b>Archibaldo Silva</b>	<i>Sociology</i>	<b>Leopoldo Pena</b>	<i>Spanish/Portuguese</i>
<b>Chad Palumbo</b>	<i>Chemistry</i>	<b>Marketus Presswood</b>	<i>History</i>
<b>Claudia Ramirez</b>	<i>Chemistry</i>	<b>Megan Neal</b>	<i>Anthropology</i>
<b>Crystal Reynaga</b>	<i>Ecology &amp; Evolutionary Biology</i>	<b>Meghan Knight</b>	<i>Biomedical Engineering</i>
<b>Emma Mah</b>	<i>Chemical Engineering</i>	<b>Melissa Powell</b>	<i>Education</i>
<b>Frank Deryck</b>	<i>Psychology &amp; Social Behavior</i>	<b>Natalia Cardona</b>	<i>Biomedical Engineering</i>
<b>Irina Zotova</b>	<i>Economics</i>	<b>Oliver Haimson</b>	<i>Informatics</i>
<b>James Pratt</b>	<i>Criminology, Law, &amp; Society</i>	<b>Omid Mazdiyasni</b>	<i>Civil Engineering</i>
<b>Jason Yano</b>	<i>Psychology &amp; Social Behavior</i>	<b>Shirley Zhang</b>	<i>Biomedical Engineering</i>
<b>Jennifer West</b>	<i>Physics &amp; Astronomy</i>	<b>Stephanie Denzel</b>	<i>Psychology &amp; Social Behavior</i>
<b>Jessica Kwong</b>	<i>Biomedical Engineering</i>	<b>Veronica Newhart</b>	<i>Education</i>
<b>Judith Rodriguez</b>	<i>Culture &amp; Theory</i>	<b>Wind Woods</b>	<i>Drama &amp; Theatre</i>
<b>Juliana Bertin</b>	<i>Chemistry</i>	<b>Wing-Sy Derieux</b>	<i>Chemistry</i>
<b>Karina Corona</b>	<i>Psychology &amp; Social Behavior</i>	<b>Yueqioa (Rachel) Qu</b>	<i>Biomedical Engineering</i>

## Upcoming Events

### DECADE Fall Journal Club

The DECADE Student Council will host its first DECADE journal club session of the school year on Monday, November 25 from 12 pm – 2 pm at Doheny Beach A, UCI Student Center. Light refreshments will be served.

Journal Club offers an informal space for faculty and graduate students to discuss issues related to diversity in higher education.

For more information contact Nadia Ortiz, [nortiz@uci.edu](mailto:nortiz@uci.edu).

### DECADE Pub Night at The Anthill Pub



Upcoming Pub Nights @ 6 pm: **Tuesday, Nov 26th**  
To RSVP for Pub Night, contact Edwin Vargas at [edwinv@uci.edu](mailto:edwinv@uci.edu)

Please forward any questions or comments to Nadia Ortiz (DECADE Coordinator) at [diversity@rgs.uci.edu](mailto:diversity@rgs.uci.edu)