

INTERCULTURAL STUDIES DIVISION  
A CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY

- I. Founding of the Division, 1969-70
  - A. *Boom or Bust* Period, 1969
    1. Ethnic Studies Division
    2. Multicultural Department
  - B. Early Curriculum
- II. Growth Period, 1970-78
  - A. New Faculty
  - B. Curriculum Expansion
  - C. *Departmentalization*
- III. Retrenchment Period, 1978-1984
  - A. Prop. 13 *Fallout*
  - B. GE Revisions
- IV. New Growth Period, 1985-Present
  - A. Expansion
  - B. AB 1725
  - C. New GE Proposal

**Fall 1968** There were "rumblings" from minority students, minority clubs, and faculty to get more full-time minority instructors on the De Anza campus. There was conflict nationwide and educational institutions reacted to minority students with backing from the community.

Ethnic studies evolved through an adversarial position. The community fostered support from predominantly the minority community but many White Anglo-Saxons did support ethnic minority issues.

Bob Gonzales, a Chicano student at De Anza, was involved in the formation of the Multicultural Department. There was a study on minority issues. The Multicultural Department was formed to provide the vehicle for self-knowledge and understanding, to bridge the various cultures, and to bring

about an understanding of the economics, cultural diversity, and societal minority issues.

Richard Rios, Chicano, was hired to be the Multicultural Coordinator. There was a Black, Brown, White study done at both the Foothill and De Anza campuses. The results concluded that:

- the college was not reaching the community and
- not recruiting ethnic minority students, faculty or staff

Richard reported to Tom Clements, Dean of Students. His responsibilities included counseling, recruitment, proposal writing, and EOP funding. Richard started MECHA, as well as the black student group and served as their advisor.

Richard also began the NYC Program, a neighborhood youth core program for low-income minority students. Students went to De Anza for a 10-week summer session. Richard and De Anza students put the program together. High school students worked on campus and took two classes for 10 weeks. Students could use units for high school graduation or college credit after graduation.

**Summer 1969** De Anza had a retreat for the entire faculty. Discussion on ethnic studies took place.

**Winter 1969** The first "ethnic studies" course was offered. It was entitled Social Science 50--Racial and Cultural Minorities in the U.S. It was a cross-cultural and cross-disciplinary course taught by George Dabney, an African American. The course had a sociological and political perspective. Jim Dunivan, Anglo, of the Social Science Division, gave guest lectures in George's class.

**Spring 1969** A Flex Day took place where various divisions met to discuss the possibility of a minority program being started within the Social Science Division. Discussion evolved around whether there should be a separate division. During the meeting, it was voted that an independent



division of ethnic studies be created. From that vote came the creation of a separate Ethnic Studies Division.

**1969** Ida Robinson, the second Black person to be hired at De Anza (George Dabney was the first), was hired as a Counselor. Discussions of who was to chair the Ethnic Studies Division occurred. The outcome of the discussion was that an internal search for a chair of the division would take place.

**Fall 1969** Ida Robinson was hired as the first Ethnic Studies Chair of the division.

The physical location of Ethnic Studies was in the L1 Building shared with Social Science and Language Arts.

Social Science 50--Racial and Cultural Minorities in the U.S. was the first course offered, Afro-American History the second class, African History the third. The courses were cross-indexed between Ethnic Studies and Social Science.

**Winter 1969** Many people on the campus perceived the Ethnic Studies as a division that had a "lack of legitimacy", the "step-child" of the college. There was unconscious racism on the part of administrators and faculty. As Ethnic Studies grew, so did criticism of Ida. Many people considered Ida to be overly aggressive and intimidating. Much of the criticism came from within the division. She was perceived as heavy handed and perpetuating internal fighting among Blacks, Chicanos and Asians. Her style of communication was questioned. Ida, however, had the ability to rally the students to get their support.

A movement was started to get rid of Ida. She stood her ground for six years as Chair of the division. Ida left the position in Fall 1975 and was reassigned back to the classroom. She left on disability and did not return to De Anza.

Student Services. David held this position for one year and then left De Anza for a position at Economic & Social Opportunities (ESO).

Ed Kawazoe was appointed interim Coordinator/Director of the Multicultural Department.

**Fall 1974** Ed Morton, Native American Indian, was hired part time in the Multicultural Center's College Readiness Program and taught political science in that program. Olivia Mercado, Chicana, was hired as a full-time instructor in Chicano Studies. Norma Zoffman became the Coordinator of the Bilingual Center.

**Fall 1975** Ed Morton was hired as a full-time instructor in Ethnic Studies. He developed and has taught Native American courses since 1975.

Herb Perkins, African American, was hired full time as Division Dean of Ethnic Studies. Herb taught English and ESL in Language Arts and Ethnic Studies 49. In 1976, Herb introduced the ICS 7 courses to the division. Herb had originally been hired at Foothill in Fall 1971. There he taught in the Language Arts Division and developed the Interethnic Communication course (our ICS 7 course).

Jorge Guevara was hired as Assistant Coordinator of the Bilingual Center (a classified position).

**Winter 1977** At the Ethnic Studies Division retreat, the faculty discussed a division name change, developed the division's philosophy and curriculum and discussed certain ideas and principles for the division. The name change stemmed from "ethnic" meaning only color (caustic to the ear) and it did not include the cultural aspect. The name was changed to Intercultural Studies (ICS) at this point (consensus by all). Outcome of this change brought in the Multicultural Department (EOPS) and the Bilingual Center (1977-78).

**Fall 1978** Herb Perkins took leave from the division for his doctoral studies. Olivia Mercado became Acting Dean of ICS.



**Summer 1979** Norma Zoffman resigned as Bilingual Center Coordinator to take a job with Mission College.

**Fall 1979** Olivia Mercado was named Dean of the ICS Division. Issues faced during this time were: Proposition 13; budget cutting, the 1978 retrenchment; and GE requirements. The division had to provide quality and rigor, yet always defend its programs. In addition to these and other problems, faculty were leaving or going on leave and not being replaced.

Eric Terrell became Associate Coordinator of EOPS.

Jorge Guevara was promoted to a management position as Coordinator of the Bilingual Center.

**Fall 1980** Herb Perkins returned as a full-time instructor.

Full-time faculty in the division at this time were Ed Morton, Moises Moreno, Eb Hunter, Herb Perkins, and Abe Sung (one-half time with ICS and Social Science).

The Chicano Studies instructor position was not replaced.

Olivia focused on building up and acquiring space for EOPS.

The Multicultural Department and Bilingual Center (BLC) were in operation.

**Winter 1980** Mary Chin was hired as Bilingual Center Assistant Coordinator.

**1980-81** Olivia assumed responsibilities as EOPS Director when Ed Kawazoe resigned.

**Summer 1981** Mary Chin resigned as BLC Assistant Coordinator.

**October 1981** Cheryl Fong was hired to replace Mary Chin.

**1982-83** Bilingual Center funds started to dry up due to big cutbacks.

Main efforts of the dean were to prevent EOPS and the BLC from being taken away or going under.

International Studies courses were developed for industries. (Contract Instruction--training supervisors in industry to work with various ethnic groups)

**Summer 1984** College reorganization. Jorge Guevara was appointed Assistant Dean of Technical Education; his office was located at the Sunnyvale Campus.

**Fall 1984** Eric Terrell became Director of EOPS.

**Summer 1985** Olivia Mercado resigned as Dean. She returned to a full-time faculty position.

**Fall 1985** Herb Perkins became Dean of the Intercultural Studies Division. Olivia Mercado resigned from her full-time faculty position at the end of Fall Quarter to become a consultant to the Chancellor's Office.

**Spring 1988** Herb Perkins resigned as Dean and returned to a full-time faculty position in the division.

**Fall 1988** Eb Hunter was appointed Acting Dean of the ICS Division. Cheryl Fong resigned as BLC Assistant Coordinator to take a position with the California Community Colleges as CARE Coordinator.

**Spring 1989** Eric Terrell was reclassified from EOPS Director to Assistant Dean, Intercultural/International Studies. This position still encompassed the duties of the EOPS Director.



**Fall 1989** Dr. Lydia Ledesma-De John, Chicana, was hired as the new dean of the division. At its fall division retreat, the official name of the division was changed to the Intercultural/International Studies Division (IIS) to reflect the added charge of the division: to develop an International Studies program.

Dr. Michael Chang, Chinese American, and Dr. Angela Djao, Chinese American, were hired to teach Intercultural, Asian, Asian American, and International Studies courses. Carolyn Wilkins-Greene, African American, was hired as a full-time IIS instructor and Affirmative Action Chair for the De Anza campus. Carolyn is only required to teach up to a 50% load in Intercultural Studies. The other 50% is utilized in her role as AA Chair.

Dr. Lois Bandeira-Locci, a part-time instructor with IIS and Language Arts, was hired as BLC Assistant Coordinator.

**Spring 1990** Eric Terrell resigned as Assistant Dean, IIS, to accept an Assistant Dean of Student Services position at the College of Alameda.

**Fall 1990** Joyce Davis was hired as the new Assistant Dean for IIS. The Assistant Dean job description was revised to encompass not only EOPS but also division-wide efforts, e.g., teaching, Assistant Dean in charge of part-time faculty, so forth.

**Fall 1990** The division, at its retreat, addressed the IIS Division's Strategic Plan for the next two-three years.