



Grad News

Graduate Division • University of California, Santa Barbara • Spring 2004

Judy Baulerlein - Grant Winner Explores Immigrant Voices in I.V.



When Judy Bauerlein, a third-year doctoral student in UCSB's Department of Dramatic Art, received an email message from her department about the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation's Practicum Grants Program, she saw an opportunity to build momentum around the research about which she is passionate - and to have a direct impact on young people's lives. The competitive Practicum Grants Program strives to locate the humanities more centrally and broadly in

society by making awards to a handful of deserving students across the country for self-defined internship projects with non-academic organizations.

With significant experience as a high school theatre teacher in East Harlem, scholarly insights into the representation of immigrant cultures in contemporary American theatre, and a strong desire to help immigrant communities learn more about the power of performance, Judy knew that her research interests were a perfect match for goals of the Practicum Grants Program. Deciding to take a chance, Judy, with support from Professor Naomi Iizuka in Dramatic Art, wrote her grant proposal while studying last summer in Mexico. Judy was thrilled to learn in December that her proposal was a national winner!

Judy will use her \$2,000 grant award in connection with UCSB's ENLACE (Engaging Latino Communities for Education) y Avance project to guide Isla Vista eighth-graders in creating and producing short solo plays exploring their cultural and ethnic identities. Undergraduate students from UCSB and Santa Barbara City College will also participate in Judy's project, allowing the voices of immigrant cultures to be heard side-by-side with the voices of transient student populations. Judy's project will culminate in the performance of the students' solo plays as the "kick-off" event - In the House: A Festival of New Solo Performance - for UCSB's Summer Theatre Lab taught by Professor Iizuka.

Judy is very pleased with the support that the Department of Dramatic Art and the university as a

whole have given to community outreach projects such as hers, and believes that her Woodrow Wilson grant will further validate outreach initiatives that help new generations in Isla Vista and other communities find a stronger voice.

Judy acknowledges that the grant writing process can be frustrating for graduate students because their proposals sometimes seem to "fall into a void," but encourages her colleagues to continue to apply for grants, being certain to stress "how vital their proposal is and how it will have a direct impact" on the university or the community.

Drawing on her past experience and current research to undertake her solo performance project for young people in I.V., Judy is looking forward to a summer of creative exchange and raised voices!