

The Future of Minority Studies at Stanford had a banner year in 2004-05, and looks forward to a series of exciting events in 2005-06. *FMS at Stanford* is part of The Future of Minority Studies Research Project (FMS), which was founded in 2000 by a small group of scholars, including our own Paula Moya, who is an associate professor of English and the immediate past director of the Undergraduate Program of the Center for Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity (CCSRE).

FMS is a consortium of scholars and academic institutions with a primary interest in minority identity, education, and social transformation. Although originally conceived by its founders as a year-long interdisciplinary bicoastal research initiative involving Stanford, Binghamton, and Cornell universities, the FMS project has evolved to become a mobile “think tank” facilitating focused and productive discussions across disciplines about the democratizing role of minority identity and participation in a multicultural society. It is unique as a research group in that it is inter-institutional, interdisciplinary, and multigenerational. FMS scholars come from institutions of varying sizes and types: private research universities (e.g., Stanford, Brown, Cornell, Syracuse) liberal arts colleges (e.g., Hamilton, Moravian, Mt. Holyoke), major state universities (e.g., Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, Tennessee, Alabama-Huntsville), historically black colleges and universities (e.g., Spelman), as well as smaller state universities and community colleges (University of Michigan-Dearborn, Las Positas Community College). FMS scholars hail from a variety of disciplines in the humanities and the humanistic social sciences, and range from undergraduate students to senior administrators. Last year, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation recognized the distinctiveness and success of the FMS project by awarding it a competitive grant to conduct for three consecutive years a two-week long Summer Institute designed to provide a mentoring context in which minority scholars and those interested in minority studies can work productively and go on to occupy leadership roles in the academy. More information about the project and the Summer Institute can be found at <http://www.fmsproject.cornell.edu>.

Over the past five years, the FMS Project has generated a variety of collaborative and semi-autonomous projects involving different types of meetings — from formal conferences to informal discussion forums — that provide a unique model of collaborative intellectual work in the humanities. Several of those projects are based here at Stanford, and include the “How Do Identities Matter?” faculty/graduate student network and the Global Identities Group (GIG); together these two projects con-



stitute the core of *FMS at Stanford*. Both the Identities network and GIG are funded by the Research Institute for Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity (RICSRE) and the Stanford Humanities Center (SHC), and have derived intellectual sustenance from the faculty, visitors, and students involved in CCSRE and SHC as well as the departments of English, Spanish, Psychology, Sociology, Cultural and Social Anthropology and the Program in Modern Thought and Literature.

Last year, the “How Do Identities Matter?” network and the Junior Scholars Caucus of FMS teamed up to host “Realism in the World,” a one-day conference that took place on May 19, 2005 at Stanford. This conference was the capstone event of an intellectually lively year that included presentations on such diverse topics as the impact on black-white race relations of recent immigration to the southeast United States, the ethics of mixed-race politics, the way ideas about agency are shaped by cultural identities and practices, and the epistemic significance of identity in the multicultural classroom. During the 2004-05 academic year, the Identities network was coordinated by Monica McDermott, Assistant Professor of Sociology, together with Paula Moya and Ulka Anjaria, Ph.D. candidate in the Program in Modern Thought and Literature.

The 2005-06 year promises to be an equally exciting one for the “How Do Identities Matter?” network. We will kick off the year with a presentation by Associate Professor of English Michele Elam on the phenomenon of “mixed race” identification as it has been chronicled in Aaron McGruder’s politically astute cartoon “Boondocks.” We are looking forward to future presentations by graduate student participants such as Jolene Hubbs (Ph.D. candidate in English, Stanford), distinguished faculty visitors such as Brandi Catanese (African American Studies & Theater, Dance, and Performance Studies, Berkeley) and Tobin Siebers (English & Comparative Literature, Michigan), and such Stanford luminaries as Lawrence Bobo, Professor of Sociology and Director of the Center of Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity. During the 2005-06 academic year, the Identities network will be coordinated by Michele Elam and Paula Moya, together with Julie Avril Minich, Ph.D. candidate in the department of Spanish and Portuguese. ♦