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PRESS RELEASE: The Welga Project incorporated into the Bulosan Center for Filipino Studies

Professor Robyn Rodriguez of the UC Davis Department of Asian American Studies founded the Welga Project to promote and preserve the history of Filipino American leadership and involvement in the Delano Grape Strike. Since its inception, the project launched a digital archive, conducted oral history interviews, facilitated curriculum development, and co-launched the 50th Anniversary of the Grape Strike with FANHS-Delano. Recent developments at UC Davis aim to move past the “project” phase by establishing a physical and digital center for Filipino studies. The Bulosan Center for Filipino Studies (BCFS) initiative aims at this goal. It will be based at the Department of Asian American Studies and will consolidate various Filipino Studies research projects being conducted by scholars at UC Davis.

BCFS draws its mission from the life’s work of Carlos Bulosan, worker, writer and activist. BCFS aims at studying and analyzing the Filipino experience in the United States and the broader diaspora through interdisciplinary, community-engaged research, with a particular focus on the most marginalized and vulnerable groups. It will also collect and preserve resources documenting Filipino diasporic history and culture. Finally, the BCFS can play a role in linking scholarly inquiry with policy debates and other forms of social action to bridge the divide between the university and communities beyond its walls. Currently, the BCFS pilot cohort submitted research grants to fund the research projects and are planning the center’s first benefit dinner on September 29. For more information about the benefit dinner and on sponsorship opportunities, please visit <https://bulosancenter.wixsite.com/benefitdinner>.

Through July and August, the Welga Project Facebook Page and other online portals will begin the transition into the BCFS designation. The Welga Digital Archive will retain its original name (due to foreseen and unforeseen consequences of changing the URL), however the online archive will indicate its incorporation into the BCFS. For any questions regarding BCFS, please contact Professor Robyn Rodriguez at rrodriguez@ucdavis.edu and for any archival inquiries please contact Allan Jason Sarmiento at jsarmiento@ucdavis.edu.