

# Alhambra resident named as Cal State LA's interim associate dean for Diversity, Student Engagement

Cal State LA has selected Dr. Rita Ledesma, a resident of Alhambra, to serve as the College of Health and Human Services' interim associate dean for Diversity and Student Engagement. She will begin her interim appointment this spring.

"I was raised in the City Terrace neighborhood of East Los Angeles, and I have lived in Alhambra for many years," Dr. Ledesma said. "So, I am excited about working with the College faculty and staff to promote creative, collaborative, and research based interventions that support students, faculty, and the mission of the University and College. I appreciate the opportunity to promote the academic aspirations of all students."

Dr. Ledesma served as chair of the Department of Child and Family Studies at Cal State LA for six years and was appointed to the University's School of Social Work in fall 1995.

She played a significant role in the development of the Master of Social Work program and served as the first director of field education. She has participated in grant activities and developed a number of community partnerships to address educational equity issues as well as community-campus interventions.

Dr. Ledesma also worked with the Par Brown Institute at Cal State LA, where she developed the Health Policy Outreach Center. She was affiliated with the Partnership for Academic Learning and Success (PALS) Peer-Mentoring Program for many years. She developed the Pathways to Graduation Program in the Department of Child and Family Studies. She also has a long history of participation on the Academic Senate and Senate Executive Committee at Cal State LA.

As a life-long resident of the communities immediately adjacent to the University,



Alhambra resident Dr. Rita Ledesma will serve as Cal State LA's College of Health and Human Services' interim associate dean for Diversity and Student Engagement.

Dr. Ledesma possesses a deep appreciation for the role Cal State LA plays in nurturing the academic achievement of students and improving local communities. Her academic and culturally focused social work career has been informed by her commitment to social justice, equity, and opportunity.

"The urban mission of the University resonates with Dr. Ledesma's personal and professional narrative as well as her values and experiences as a leader, practitioner, and scholar," said Ron Vogel, interim dean of the University's College of Health and Human Services. "I look forward to her help, leadership, and focused attention on increasing diversity within our faculty ranks and improving student success in the College."

Dr. Ledesma is a licensed clinical social worker and a member of the Oglala Lakota Tribe, Pine Ridge South Dakota. She received a BA, MSW, and Ph.D. from UCLA.



Ramona Convent students welcome author Lisa See. From left: Emily Covarrubias, '19; Annelise Deusch, '19; Victoria Romero, '19; Izel Varela, '19; Ms. See; Lydia Nunez, '19; Sophie Reyes, '18; and Elisa Herrera, '17.

## Author Lisa See inspires Ramona Convent Secondary School students to search for their own Gold Mountain

The Ramona Community welcomed best-selling author Lisa See on April 6. Ms. See shared how her curiosity and determination fueled her quest to document her Chinese-American family's history.

The focus of Ms. See's presentation was her acclaimed book *On Gold Mountain: The One-Hundred-Year Odyssey of My Chinese-American Family*. The novel chronicles the journey of Ms. See's great-grandfather, Fong See, who in the 1870s made his way to Gold Mountain (the Chinese name for the United States) and overcame many hardships and obstacles, such as racist laws and discrimination. As the family patriarch, he used his entrepreneurial genius to become the godfather of Los Angeles's Chinatown and one of the most prominent Chinese in the nation.

Ms. See shared the steps that students can take to research and document their own family history and traditions. "Don't ask a family member about a challenging or difficult situation right away," Ms. See

advised. "First ask your elder relatives questions about the games they played as children." She said the games ancestors played as children and the foods they ate give people a view into the culture, socio economic conditions, and historic events that surrounded their lives.

The presentation started with a prayer about social justice by Carolina Barbosa, '17, followed by an introduction of the author by Elisa Herrera, '17.

Prior to Ms. See's visit, members of the Book Club and the Peace and Justice Society promoted the author's visit with a creative writing contest.

The winner of the contest was awarded copies of Ms. See's books and a \$20 Starbucks gift card during the luncheon and book signing event that took place in the library immediately following the author's assembly presentation. Sophomore Sophie Reyes was presented with the main prize, and sophomore Subashni Rajiv received an honorable mention and copies of Ms. See's books.

## 11 Critical Home Inspection Traps to be Aware of Weeks Before Listing Your Home for Sale

Alhambra - According to industry experts, there are over 33 physical problems that will come under scrutiny during a home inspection when your home is for sale. A new report has been prepared which identifies the eleven most common of these problems, and what you should know about them

most cases, you can make a reasonable pre-inspection yourself if you know what you're looking for, and knowing what you're looking for can help you prevent little problems from growing into costly and unmanageable ones.

To help homesellers deal with this issue before their homes are listed, a free

