

What do our Ethnic Studies Alumni Say?

[I am] the founding principal of EnCompass Academy, an innovative public school that serves predominately low-income and minority students. The school emphasizes a well-rounded education, family and community engagement, and an infusion of the students' diverse backgrounds and cultures into the educational experience. What I learned in my studies about discourse, power, etc. is what I'm using every day to build community at my school. It's been an amazing opportunity to take the world-class education I received, open a school, and share that knowledge with students, parents, teachers and administrators.

-Minh-Tram Nguyen (Class of 1996)

Luciani, K. (2010, Nov. 8). Ethnic Studies Alumna Leads Innovative School. Retrieved from: http://ucsdnews.ucsd.edu/thisweek/2010/11/08_ethnicstudiesalumna.asp

I am currently in-house counsel for The Patrón Spirits Company, a global spirits company known for its ultra-premium tequilas, rums, and vodka. As my career evolved in corporate law for international companies, I realized my degree in Ethnic Studies was extremely useful in preparing me to work in a multi-cultural workplace and business environment. In my role, not only do I provide general legal advice, but also bring awareness to management as to any underlying issues of discrimination or harassment based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality or disability in the workplace.

-Erika Nishitani Cape (Class of 1996)

My success at the UCLA School of Law is due to the time I spent in Ethnic Studies at UCSD. It gave me the tools to critically evaluate how abstract concepts (like law and race) impact the real world. Being able to make this connection is a vital ingredient to success in any career. Upon graduation, I am fortunate to have an opportunity to clerk for Judge Virginia A. Phillips in the Central District of California where I will have a chance to shape the law.

-Zain Shirazi (Class of 2009)

In 2002, I began my career as an independent non-profit consultant. I developed my expertise in large scale regional research processes and developing curricula for various training and educational programs. In 2008, I co-founded CLA & Associates, a research, public policy and planning consulting firm. I and CLA largely specialize in research and policy planning around housing and homelessness issues. I have always been able to show that my [Ethnic Studies] education has been the foundation for helping many non-profits and local governments make critical policy decisions in consultation with community stakeholder groups.

-Jennifer Lee-Anderson (Class of 1994)

UC San Diego's Ethnic Studies Department is a vibrant community of scholars committed to the interdisciplinary study of race, ethnicity, indigeneity, gender, sexuality, class, and dis/ability. Ethnic Studies is an exciting degree that prepares students to enter the workforce and function effectively and critically as informed citizens in a diverse multicultural society. The major offers a solid liberal arts education for students considering admission to graduate or professional schools and careers in education, law, medicine, public health, social work, counseling, journalism, business, city planning, politics, psychology, international relations, or creative writing.

