

## **Wilkie Leaves UC MEXUS**

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The founding Universitywide Coordinator of UC MEXUS, James W Wilkie has resigned effective November 14, 1983, to focus his energies on PROFMEX and UCLA activities. In an interview in Los Angeles, Wilkie noted that with the consortium firmly established as a recognized leader in Mexican studies, he can now leave UC MEXUS to engage in other important activities.

UC MEXUS was formed in November 1981 by the University of California as a response to the increasing complexity of the United States-Mexico relationship. The administrative headquarters for the consortium were located at UCLA and Wilkie was named Universitywide Coordinator.

Under Wilkie's guidance, UC MEXUS developed into an effective organization for promoting Mexico-related activities. Accomplishments of the consortium during this period include initiation of the *International Inventory of Current Mexico-Related Research* (published for UC MEXUS at UCSD), which has become a key tool for Mexico researchers and the *UC MEXUS NEWS* (published for the consortium by UCLA), which has improved communications among Mexicanists everywhere and which has given wide publicity to University of California programs. In addition, the interdisciplinary journal *Mexican Studies/Estudios Mexicanos* (based at UCI) will publish its first number in the fall of 1984

Through encouragement from UC MEXUS and with consortium funds, each of the nine UC campuses experienced a significant evolution of organization and expansion of Mexico programs. This process was assisted by UC MEXUS grants for projects that stimulated Mexico-related research throughout the UC system. These developments over the past two years, according to Wilkie, "made the whole of the nine campus programs into more than the sum of its parts."

On another front, Wilkie as both leader of UC MEXUS and as President of PROFMEX linked the two organizations in several collaborative projects. Most important is the PROFMEX support for the research inventory and the newsletter.

Leaving his duties at UC MEXUS, Wilkie will devote his efforts to PROFMEX and the UCLA Mexico programs. Wilkie is Professor of History at UCLA and editor of the *Statistical Abstract of Latin America Series*. He is also co-editor of the *United States-Mexico Borderlands Atlas Project*. Wilkie is a distinguished scholar of contemporary Mexico and the author of numerous books and articles.

UC MEXUS is now converting to a permanent structure within the UC system. Until this change is accomplished, coordinating duties will be assumed by the chair of the Executive Committee.