The United States-Mexico borderlands region has been the stimulus for numerous research and teaching activities at UCLA. Building upon interest generated by the ongoing United States-Mexico Borderlands Atlas Project (a joint undertaking of UCLA’s Latin American Center and the Chicano Studies Research Center), three graduate seminars, a colloquium, and other related activities were held during winter quarter 1983.

Hartmut Walter (Geography) gave a seminar on man and environmental resources of the borderlands and Paul Ganster (Latin American Studies) taught a course that presented an historical analysis and discussion of the most critical issues affecting the region. Rebecca Morales and Leobardo Estrada, both from Urban Planning, combined their efforts for a seminar on urban-regional development policy of the borderlands. The three seminars joined forces for a field trip to northern Baja California where they were hosted by Alberto Hernández of the Centro de Estudios Fronterizos del Norte de México (CEFNOMex) in Tijuana and Luis Lloréns Báez of the Instituto de Investigaciones Sociales in Mexicali.

The borderlands colloquium was sponsored by the Latin American Center, the Chicano Studies Research Center, and the Graduate School of Architecture and Urban Planning. Over the course of the quarter presentations were made by Ramón A. Gutiérrez (UC San Diego), Saskia Sassen-Koob (UC San Diego), Richard Juárez (Southwest Border Regional Conference), David Mares (UC San Diego), Margaret FitzSimmons (UCLA), Jorge Bustamante (CEFNOMex), and James W. Wilkie (UCLA).

On February 2, Frank del Olmo of the Los Angeles Times and Jorge Bustamante of CEFNOMex made a presentation entitled "Mexican Immigration to the United States and the Current Economic Crisis" to the Latin American Center Associates. The Associates are a private-sector support group for the Center. Its officers include as President Robert M. Lorenz (Security Pacific National Bank) and Vice Presidents Robert P. Applegate (Robert P Applegate Law Offices), Maria Luisa Ellis (Bank of America), and Leticia E. Lozano (La Opinión).

Border-related activities planned for the spring include a one-day conference on the borderlands sponsored by the Student Association for Latin American Studies (see accompanying article). In addition a UCLA faculty symposium on the borderlands is also scheduled for the spring quarter.