



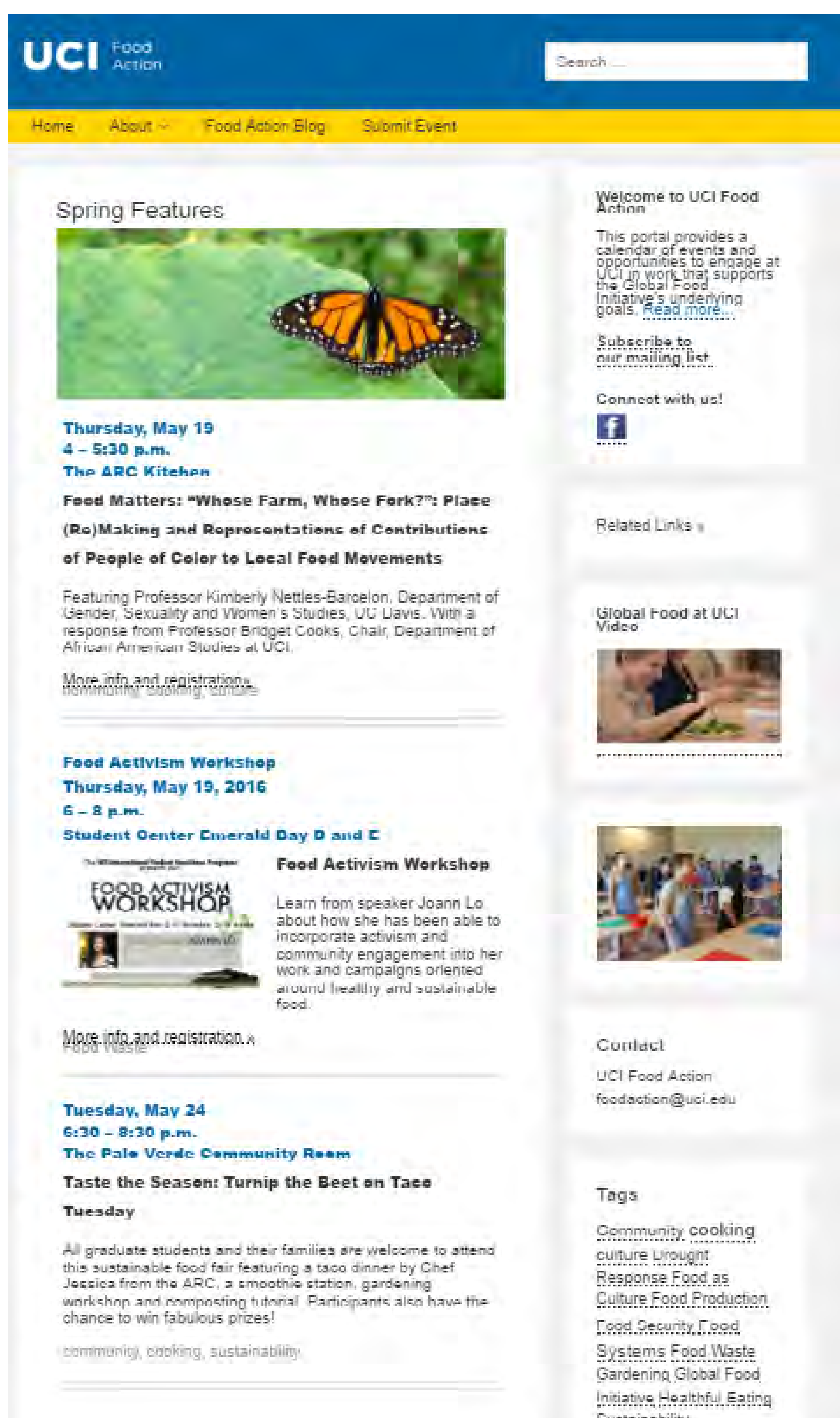
# Food Action Community Outreach and Engagement at UC Irvine

## Clare Gordon, University of California Global Food Initiative Fellowship

### Introduction

As a part of the University of California's system wide Global Food Initiative, each campus designated a campus ambassador to facilitate organization and communication among the fellows. University of California, Irvine, elected to make this a dedicated position on campus, designated as the Student Engagement Campus Representative. This fellowship project was intended to facilitate communication between food clubs, research groups, and task forces on campus. UCI has many faculty, staff and students interested in food-related issues, so the goal of this fellowship position was to make the GFI at UC Irvine a hub for campus stakeholders interested in this research area. This fellow was also responsible for managing communication between the GFI fellows at UCI.

### Food Action Calendar and Blog



### Results and Outcomes

This fellowship achieved numerous results :

- Managing and updating UCI's Food Action webpage. <http://sites.uci.edu/foodaction/> This site includes an events calendar with all of the food-related events happening on campus. During spring quarter a blog was added that will hopefully grow next year.
- The Food Action Facebook presence grew with increased posts and more followers.
- This fellowship also helped to generate two food-related events:
  - Farm 2 Table
  - Farm 2 Table highlighted the history of The Farm at UCI with a hand-on cooking workshop focused on food justice. The event was filmed and will be used to create a video that highlights the work of the Sustainability Initiative.
  - Taste the Season: Turnip the Beet on Taco Tuesday.
  - Taste the Season was a sustainable food fair aimed at grad students. The event attracted over 100 people to dine on seasonal tacos, ride a smoothie bike and make newspaper pots for seedlings.
- A comprehensive spreadsheet was created detailing all of the faculty, staff and students involved with food research and programming at UCI. This document was intended to streamline organization and communication among these constituents.

### Farm 2 Table Workshop and Dinner

**Farm 2 Table**

This workshop will illuminate the close connection between sustainability and food justice.

Inspired by our campus' rural roots, the event will trace The Farm's history from the site's use as farmworker housing through the experimental intercultural gathering site decades later. Chef Roger will show participants how to prepare Central American cuisine from this period.

This experience will be documented by Strategic Media Productions in the Ayala School of Biological Sciences.

**UCI Illuminations**  
The Chancellor's Arts & Culture Initiative

**UCI Sustainability Initiative**

**Date:** Thursday, May 12  
**Time:** 2:00 - 7:00 p.m.  
**Location:** ARC Kitchen  
**Logistics:** This event is free and open to the public. Space is limited to 25 participants.

**RSVP at <http://bit.ly/2table>**

### Conclusions

By dedicating one fellows' hours to the role of student engagement with GFI on campus, UCI was able to build and network it's community of students, faculty and staff interested in food on campus. Using both online and live organization approaches, this role fostered improved dialogue among various constituencies and increased the visibility of GFI on campus.

### Future Goals

In the future, UCI plans to continue funding this position, however the fellow will move from serving within the Sustainability Initiative to the Food Pantry, a program of the Student Outreach and Retention Center. Because food security is a central pillar of the GFI's agenda, shifting this fellowship to UCI's campus pantry will improve this fellows' ability to impact food security issues on campus.

### Taste the Season: Turnip the Beet on Taco Tuesday Sustainable Food Fair

#### Taste the Season

*You are invited to Turnip the Beet on Taco Tuesday!  
We're featuring fresh, seasonal ingredients and sustainable practices.*

**Tuesday, May 24, 6:30pm - 8:30pm**

**Palo Verde Community Room**

**OPEN TO ALL GRADUATE STUDENTS**

**Drop in for FREE food and FUN for the whole family.**

- Vegan & Vegetarian options
- Chef Demo at 7:00pm
- Gardening Workshop
- Fruit Smoothie Station
- Composting Education

**Bring your own reusable cup, plate, or utensils AND be entered to win raffle prizes!**



Featuring the following Sponsors and Participants: The ARC's Chef Jessica Van Roo ~ UC Global Food Initiative Fellows ~ UCI Hospitality & Dining Green Captains ~ UCI Garden Project ~ Global Sustainability Resource Center ~ AGS and more!



### Acknowledgements

This fellowship was coordinated and supervised by Abigail Reyes, Director of the Sustainability Initiative at UC Irvine. The fellow also worked closely with Dr. Rachel Harvey, Student Housing's Sustainability Program Manager.