

## Ricardo Chavira Biography

My family settled in Los Angeles in the mid-1920s, and my brothers and I were born and raised there. We're fourth-generation U.S. citizens and ethnic Mexicans. My ancestral roots on both sides of my family are in Chihuahua.

In the 30 years before I started teaching I worked as a journalist.

Employed as a reporter and editor for organizations that included the San Diego Union, Time magazine and the Dallas Morning News, I specialized in international affairs, with an emphasis on Latin America. I also covered the U.S.-Mexico border, traveling the entire length of the nearly 2,000-mile boundary and filing more than 100 stories during 18 months in the early 1980's.

Starting in 1984, I reported extensively on Central American armed conflicts. With Ronald Reagan in the White House, the wars were treated as a battle against global communism. Thus, these savage conflicts became among America's highest national security priorities.

For six years, I sought through my reporting to compare and contrast facts on the ground to Washington policy. This led me to spend weeks with insurgents in El Salvador and CIA-trained guerrillas in Nicaragua, best known as *contras*. I patrolled with Salvadoran troops, interviewed their commanders and American military advisors.

I also spent considerable time documenting political change in Mexico and Cuba. As a diplomatic correspondent for Time in the mid 1980's and early 1990's, I reported hundreds of stories from more than 40 countries. Among those stories were interviews with presidents, foreign affairs ministers and, of course, regular folks. I accompanied then-Secretary of State George Shultz and his successor, James Baker on numerous trips.

In 1994 I was part of a Dallas Morning News team awarded the 1994 Pulitzer Prize for international reporting. Some 30 stories and dozens of photographs documented the global plight of women who suffer systematic violence. It was striking to see just how ingrained is the disproportionate and shocking violence

women endure all over the world. My work had won me two previous Pulitzer nominations.

I have been a UC Irvine lecturer since 2006, teaching Media Writing, International Journalism, U.S.-Mexico Border Perspectives, Mexican Politics and American Culture.

During ten years as a lecturer at Cal State Fullerton, I taught a variety of journalism and mass communication courses in the university's College of Communication.

While at CSUF, I helped establish an academic exchange program with the University of Havana. Thanks to the program, we hosted the University of Havana's Dean of the School of Tourism and a group of recently graduated journalism students.

I am a graduate of Cal State Long Beach and Cal State Northridge. I hold a B.A. in journalism and an M.A in mass communication.