

**GRANT PROPOSAL COVER PAGE**

You can type information directly into the cells below.

		Date	11/1/07	
1. Proposal Title		Unknown Hero: The Francisco Jiménez Story		
2. Name of Person submitting Proposal		Michael Whalen		
3. Phone	408-551-7052	E-Mail	mwhalen@scu.edu	
FAX	408-554-4913			
4. Type of Grant (Please check one): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bannan Grant <input type="checkbox"/> Dialog and Design Grant				
5. Provide you 4 – 6 letter Department ID or Program ID. (Not a Fund number!) This information must be provided. (e.g. ECON for Economics Department, LACLNC for Law Clinic.)				
C	O	M	M	
			Helen Otero	5498
<b>SCU Department ID or Program ID</b>			<b>Contact Person</b>	<b>Ext.</b>
* You must have an SCU Affiliation				
6. If your department does not provide administrative assistance to manage grants, we will provide help. Do you need for us to help manage your grant?				<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
7. Total cost of proposed project .....		\$	282000.00	
8. Amount of money requested from Bannan Center .....		\$	5000.00	
9. Amount requested from other sources, if any (please list):				
California Council for the Humanities		\$	60000.00	
NEH		\$	185000.00	
University Research Grant/Technology Grant/Hackworth Grant		\$	20000.00	
10. Please explain briefly what will happen to this project if you do not receive funding from the Bannan Center.				
If I do not receive this grant I risk not being able to receive matching funds from CCH and NEH. I plan on combining this money with the other grants listed and in-kind equipment and facility rentals from our television studio to complete my budget needs for the film. Without it, I probably will not be able to make the film, or be forced to make a minimalist version of the film.				
Department Chair or Supervisor Approval		Name (Type or Print)		Date
		Signature		

**Proposed Budget  
Bannan Grant**

**Name:** Michael Whalen

**Proposal Title:** Unknown Hero: The Francisco Jiménez Story

**I estimate that I will spend the money I am requesting as follows:**

<u>PRIME ACCOUNT</u>		<u>AMOUNT</u>
<b>SUPPLY</b>	office, lab, or instruction supplies	5000.00
<b>PHONE</b>	telephone charges	
<b>REPROD</b>	copying, printing	
<b>MAIL</b>	postage, mailing, fax charges	
<b>TRAVEL</b>	domestic transport, lodging or meals	
<b>SPCEVT</b>	food charges, room charges for a special event	
<b>CONTRS</b>	guest speaker honoraria, research subject fees, professional services	
<b>MISC</b>	publications, subscriptions, membership dues	
<b>SWAGE</b>	student wages	
<b>STFSAL</b>	staff salary	
<b>FACSAL</b>	faculty salary	
<b>BENEXP</b>	student, staff, and faculty benefits	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b><u>5000.00</u></b>

**Please note:**

**In the event that this grant is awarded, your department is responsible for any overdrafts associated with this grant.**

**See Page 3.**

## Grant Proposal Evaluation Form

Date 11/1/07

Proposal Title Unkown Hero: The Francisco Jiménez Story

Name of Grantee Michael Whalen

Phone 408-551-7052

**Part I: [To be completed for submission along with your original grant proposal.]**

List the intended outcomes of this project: (Use additional pages if necessary)

This film will help transform the image of migrant workers and illegal aliens in California and the Nation. My intent is to place a face, a name, a family to this very contentious issue dividing our society. Through the Jiménez family's journey I will show how migrant workers are productive members of society who, when given access to education, can achieve anything. I want people to understand what happens to families when they are torn apart from each other, forced to live in poverty and treated as disposable commodities. Additionally, by bringing Francisco's family's story to the screen I'm providing inspiration for all recent immigrants (legal and illegal) to find hope in their faith, hard work and families.

I have already received a commitment from The Bilingual Press to distribute the film to the hundreds of primary and secondary schools that have adopted "The Circuit" (the book the film is based on) into their curriculum. I also intend to submit the film to over 25 film festivals around the country and to the national PBS series, P.O.V. I also plan on developing a website for the film that encourages immigrants to share their stories via a blog.

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**PENDING APPROVAL OF YOUR GRANT - PARTS II AND III ARE TO BE COMPLETED  
AT THE END OF YOUR GRANT PERIOD.**

**PROPOSAL BUDGET ACCOUNT NUMBER**

14006		RSCH	
Fund	Dept ID	Program	Project ID

**Part II**

Briefly describe the actual measurable outcomes of this project and the assessment tools you used. (Use additional pages if needed.)

Part III: Describe any other outcomes of your project.

**Santa Clara University  
Bannan Grant  
Faculty application**

***Unknown Hero:  
The Francisco Jiménez Story***

*A documentary film based on the critically acclaimed novel, "The Circuit" that follows the struggles of a migrant worker family trying to survive while working the cotton fields of California.*

**Grant request: \$5000**

**November 1, 2007**

**Michael Whalen  
Associate Professor  
Communication Department  
Santa Clara University**

# Ignatian Center for Jesuit Education Bannan Grant Proposal

## I. Project Title

**Unknown Hero: The Francisco Jiménez Story** is the tale of a Mexican boy who crosses the border at four-years old with his family in search of a better life. It's the story of how a migrant worker's child struggles to adapt to his new home but ultimately finds success in the classroom and begins a journey that leads to him winning the "U.S. Professor of the Year" award in 2002.

This documentary is adapted from the critically acclaimed novel "The Circuit" by Dr. Francisco Jiménez that has sold over 200,000 copies since its release in 1997. In the novel, Francisco's family earns a living following the "circuit" of migrant workers camps in California while also avoiding immigration officials.

## II. Statement of Problem

The Jiménez family's story is just as relevant today as it was over 50 years ago. With an estimated 13 million migrant workers in the United States<sup>1</sup> today, and nearly 800,000 of those children under the age of 18<sup>2</sup>, the battles that Francisco and his family fought to survive and flourish serve as a model for other migrant worker families and as an example to the rest of society that immigrants can be productive members of American life. It demands that we stop treating migrant workers as commodities and start treating them as vital members of our society.

Covering topics as diverse as access to education, to health care, and cultural isolation, "**Unknown Hero**" uses Jiménez's own childhood experiences as the vehicle to wade into the hotly debated issues surrounding immigration in California. Since the state's agricultural industry relies on the labor of migrant workers this brings forth a number of questions: what should be done with their children? How are they to be educated? Should they have access to healthcare? How should we deal with families that are made up of legal citizens and illegal immigrants?

Making documentaries such as this are expensive and risky, which is why the mainstream media doesn't. If Michael Moore isn't sensationalizing a topic, or Ken Burns isn't reflecting on a major historical event most of Hollywood chooses to ignore funding the film. It's not profitable. But institutions like Santa Clara University can support this type of filmmaking: socially relevant films that dare to take a stand, however controversial, and without profit as a motivating factor. Without University support, films like "**Unknown Hero**" won't be made.

## III Methods

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<sup>1</sup> National Agricultural Workers Survey 2000

<sup>2</sup> United Farm Workers estimate

“**Unknown Hero**” provides a first-person account and expert analysis of the every day life of a migrant child and his family. Combining recreations, animation, family photos, stock footage and interviews from Francisco and his older brother, Roberto, the life in tent city and in the cotton fields outside Santa Maria, California are brought to life. Interviews with migrant worker and immigration experts Dr. Rolando Hinojosa-Smith and Dr. Francisco Lomeli authenticate the Jiménez family story and connect it to today’s migrant worker family.

The film will be shot in High-Definition to provide the highest quality and to increase the likelihood of acceptance into film festivals and for national broadcast. In addition to the screenings and broadcast, a website will be developed to encourage recent immigrants to share their experiences with each other via a blog. I also plan on setting up public screenings in the California Central Valley where Francisco and his brother will be available for a Q&A after the film. Finally, next Fall (08) I plan on having my documentary class create 5 – 7 short films centering around the topic of immigration in California.

As with all my films I hire an advanced documentary student to work with me in all phases of the production, providing the student with first-hand experience with the independent film industry.

#### **IV Timetable<sup>3</sup>**

- a. December 2007 – March 2008: finalize script and pre-interview humanities experts and Jiménez family
- b. March 2008: scout locations in Santa Maria, CA and the Central Valley
- c. April 2008: shoot main interviews and b-roll
- d. May 2008: finish shooting b-roll, collect stock footage
- e. June 2008 – September 2008: edit film
- f. Fall 08 Quarter: Comm 132 documentary class creates short films about immigration for website
- g. October 2008: online film, add music, sound design
- h. November 2008 – Summer 2009: enter film festivals, public screenings, website up and running

#### **V Relevance to past and future research and/or teaching of applicant**

My research is filmmaking. My tenure application will include this film as well as two previous films, “FRESH women” and “Black & White Ball.” In my films I strive to give a voice to the people in society that the mainstream media ignores. I hope by doing so I facilitate greater understanding between diverse groups, bridging the gaps that separate us by exposing how similar we all are. For more information and some video clips of my work please visit my website at [www.michaeltwhalen.com](http://www.michaeltwhalen.com)

#### **VI Relevance to Ignatian Center’s Bannan Institute**

- a. *The Ignatian ideal of “finding God in all things”*

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<sup>3</sup> I am on JFDL in the Spring 08 quarter

**“Unknown Hero”** is about believing in other people. Through this film, I hope to put a face on the subject of immigration and migrant workers. For too long this debate has been happening without the point-of-view of the people working in the fields. It’s too easy to debate numbers and figures. Now need to turn our attention to what is happening to these children and these families. What is more Christian than realizing the humanity in another person whom society is marginalizing?

*b. The focus of the education of the whole person*

Much of what I do with my students is teaching them about the responsibility of the media. Beyond the craft of filmmaking I want to encourage them to use the power of film for social change. My goal is that each student graduates Santa Clara not as a proficient producer, but rather a filmmaker with a clearly articulated vision grounded in the Jesuit Mission of competence, conscience and compassion. **“Unknown Hero”** is my way of leading by example. This is a film that strives to be entertaining as well educational. It is my way of expressing my personal vision as a filmmaker (by adding animation to a documentary) but also my understanding of how to create a film that will succeed in the larger context of the mainstream media. It does my subject and me no good if I create a film that nobody sees. This balance of creating socially conscious films that the public can embrace is my biggest challenge but the debate I must have every time I make a film focuses my work and ensures the quality of the final product.

*c. The practical spirituality of “The Spiritual Experience”*

I believe that the film-going experience is essentially a reflective one. A good film forces the audience to empathize with the main character and experience his journey. It stays with you and can be a life-changing experience. It forces individuals to experience the lives of others in very emotional ways. The growing reach of films into our every day activities further increases filmmaker’s ability to generate self-reflection in the general public. The success of “Inconvenient Truth” is a perfect example.

The public screenings and the blog for **“Unknown Hero”** intend to bring together different peoples in the hope of developing a better understanding of each other. The blog, in particular, will allow young immigrants to openly discuss their experiences and reflect upon how other’s experiences might help them overcome their difficulties.

*d. The commitment to the faith the does justice in the world*

**“Unknown Hero”** will challenge every viewer to re-think how our society treats migrant workers. At a time when immigration reform is at the top of the political discussion board, this film will help education the general public about the need to provide education and healthcare for this neglected segment of our population. By bringing Francisco Jiménez’s story to a larger audience the film will demonstrate what can happen when immigrant children are given the same opportunities as resident children. The film demands that we treat this segment of our population as productive members of society and not as commodities.

**VII Grants received in the past three years**

- a. University Research Grant (2006) for the making of the documentary “FRESH women.” \$5000.00
- b. Dean’s Grant (2006) for the making of the documentary “FRESH women.” \$1900
- c. Global Partners (2007) funded my documentary “Black & White Ball” \$250,000

**VIII Publications**

- a. “FRESH women” premiered in February 2007
  - a. Awarded “Merit of Distinction” at the 2007 Worldfest Film Festival in Houston, Texas
  - b. Awarded “Honorable Mention” at the 2007 Berkeley Video & Film Festival in Berkeley, California
  - c. Finalist at the 2007 AFI/Discovery Silverdocs Film Festival in Bethesda, Maryland
- b. “Surviving as a Independent Producer in Hollywood” Santa Clara Magazine, Fall 2006

**XI Budget**

Producing Staff/Pre-production	\$36,796.00
Crew and Personnel	\$114,214.00
Production Expenses	\$36,200.00
Travel	\$5,875.00
Post-Production	\$54,440.98
Rights, Music and Talent	\$14,500.00
Website Design and Production	\$9,000.00
Outreach, Promotion, Distribution	\$10,150.00
Deliverables	\$270.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$281,445.98</b>