The 1992 Nobel Peace Prize recipient Rigoberta Menchú will be speaking at the Titan Gym from 6 to 7:30 p.m. as the keynote speaker for the Chicana and Chicano Resource Center’s afternoon-long event.

The event, “Bringing Back Community Voice in Service Professions: Lessons From Cesar Chavez,” will have Menchú and other individuals host activities throughout the day in the Pollak Library.

Menchú was born in Guatemala in 1959 and came from a Guatemalan-Indian peasant family, according to the Nobel Prize website.

In her early life, she helped her family with farm work and, as a teenager, became involved in social reform through the Catholic Church, according to the site.

Today she is a prominent influence in women’s rights, according to the Nobel Prize website.

The activism of Menchú and her family led to persecution by the Guatemalan military, and her father was accused of guerrilla activities and died in a fire while protesting human rights abuse by the government, according to the Mayan Renaissance website.

Menchú’s brother was kidnapped, tortured and killed by a Guatemalan government death squad in 1979 and her mother was raped and killed by a death squad the following year, according to Voices from the Gaps, a program at the University of Michigan recognizing achievements of minority women.

In 1981, she fled to Mexico and soon joined international effort to stop the Guatemalan government’s brutalities against the Guatemalan-Indian peasants, according to the Voices from the Gap site.

Menchú published her book, I, Rigoberta Menchu, in 1983 and was soon translated internationally, according to the site. She vividly recounted the horrors of the violence and personal losses she suffered over the years at the hands of the Guatemalan government that stemmed from her efforts to push for human rights in the country.

She unsuccessfully ran for president of Guatemala in 2007, but in 2008 she formed the Winaq—Mayan for “The Wholeness of the Human Being”—political party, the Washington Post reported.

It is the first Guatemalan political party to represent an indigenous group directly, according to the Mayan Renaissance website.

The Chicana and Chicano Resource Center’s event will begin at 2 p.m. with a workshop in room 360 of the Pollak Library.

Career and Academic Advising Specialist, Janette Hyder, will lead a workshop that will shed light on the connection of education and occupation, and how the relationship can best serve an underrepresented group. The workshop ends at 3:30 p.m.

From 5 to 6 p.m. in the same room, there will be a panel discussion with professors alongside civil and legal rights advocates, that will be about how to turn careers into advocacy vessels.

Menchú will have a reception and book signing for an hour after her keynote speech ends at 7:30 p.m.
Nobel Peace Prize recipient to give keynote address

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