

ADELANTE

The Latina and Latino Studies Program

Volume 1 | Spring 2012

Art by Antonio Martorell

REFLECTING ON THE PAST,
WORKING TOWARD OUR FUTURE

Note from the Director

Bienvenidos to the Latina and Latino Studies Program at Northwestern University. This newsletter will provide you with information and updates on our courses for the 2012-13 academic year, on our past and forthcoming academic lectures and dialogues, and on student-centered events.

This past year we sponsored the speaker series on Latino/a Chicago, which offered the NU community the most updated research on Latino demographics in the city, the history of Mexican Chicago, ethnographies of Puerto Rican Chicago, Latino/a writers on the city, politics and immigration. In addition, we have organized film showings and other events that address current topics of importance to U.S. Latino/as, such as "Precious Knowledge," a documentary about the banning of La Raza Studies in Tucson High School. This Spring Quarter 2012 we are co-sponsoring (in collaboration with the Kaplan Institute for the Humanities) the residency of Puerto Rican artist, Antonio Martorell. Moreover, our graduate students have organized a Latino/a Peer Mentorship Program for undergraduate students, we are identifying Bracero workers in the Chicago area for interviews that will be part of the Smithsonian Institute archives as part of our Bracero Oral History Initiative, and we co-sponsor numerous events on campus that address topics of concern and of interest to our communities and that address social justice in one way or another. We are also very pleased to see an increasing number of undergraduates declaring the Latina and Latino Studies major and minor. It has been a busy year for all of us, but one of which we take much pride as we begin to create gradually a strong and vibrant intellectual community on campus and in collaboration with other organizations in Evanston and Chicago. Anyone and everyone is invited to join us at our events.

We hope that you want to join our community after reading this Newsletter. If you are, feel free to enter our website and to sign your name into our listserv. You will receive announcements about our future events.

Dr. Frances R. Aparicio

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DR. MIKE AMEZCUA ANDREW W. MELLON POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW

Mike Amezcua joined Northwestern after earning his PhD in American Studies from Yale University. As the Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in the Latina & Latino Studies Program and the Department of History he teaches courses on Latina/o history with special thematic focus on urban studies, civil rights and culture. He is currently at work on his manuscript entitled, *The Second City Anew: Mexicans, Urban Culture, and Migration in the Transformation of Chicago, 1940-1983*. His work examines postwar racial formations, spatial change, and cultural practices in an era of massive Mexican migration and provides new accounts for rethinking discourses on Chicago's so-called urban crisis. Most recently he has been selected as a Faculty Affiliate of the Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities in 2012-2013.



STUDENT CLASSROOM ENGAGEMENT

In the Spring 2012 Professor Mike Amezcua took his students enrolled in LLSP 391-Latina/o Chicago on a special guided tour of historical archives at the Chicago History Museum (CHM). The students were greeted by CHM archivist Dr. Peter Alter who guided them through relevant materials. The students consulted these archives for their class research papers on the history of Latinas/os in Chicago.

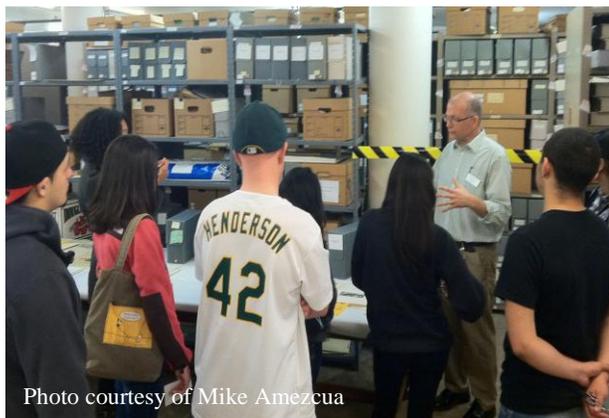


Photo courtesy of Mike Amezcua



Photo courtesy of Mike Amezcua

STUDENT CIVIC ENGAGEMENT



FAIR Immigration Reform Conference

By: Luis Frausto '12 & Isely Hernandez '14

His conviction was palpable and his towering stature and beckoning gestures engaged members of the audience. Reverend Corday T. Vivian, one of the original Freedom Riders of the Civil Rights Movement, spoke before a crowd of 200+ people within the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama. To say that listening to the recollections of a Freedom Rider was a surreal experience is an understatement. Every word filled my ears and sank to the bottom of my heart. I felt as though I was witnessing history in the making.

The pews of the monumental church were filled with an eclectic assortment of individuals: young, old, black, white, and Latino—all situated in the same location where Martin Luther King Jr. preached nearly half a century ago. All of these folks were gathered under one objective: to protest Alabama's HB 56 bill.

"I went to Montgomery as a way to improve upon my organizing capabilities and immigrant rights advocacy on campus."

During my time at the FAIR Summit and Immigrant National Convention I met with prominent immigrant rights leaders from around the country. I attended workshops on electoral and movement building training and acquired skills that would assist in increasing engagement on campus. Every interaction I had was marked by an energy and passion I never encountered before as a student at Northwestern University.

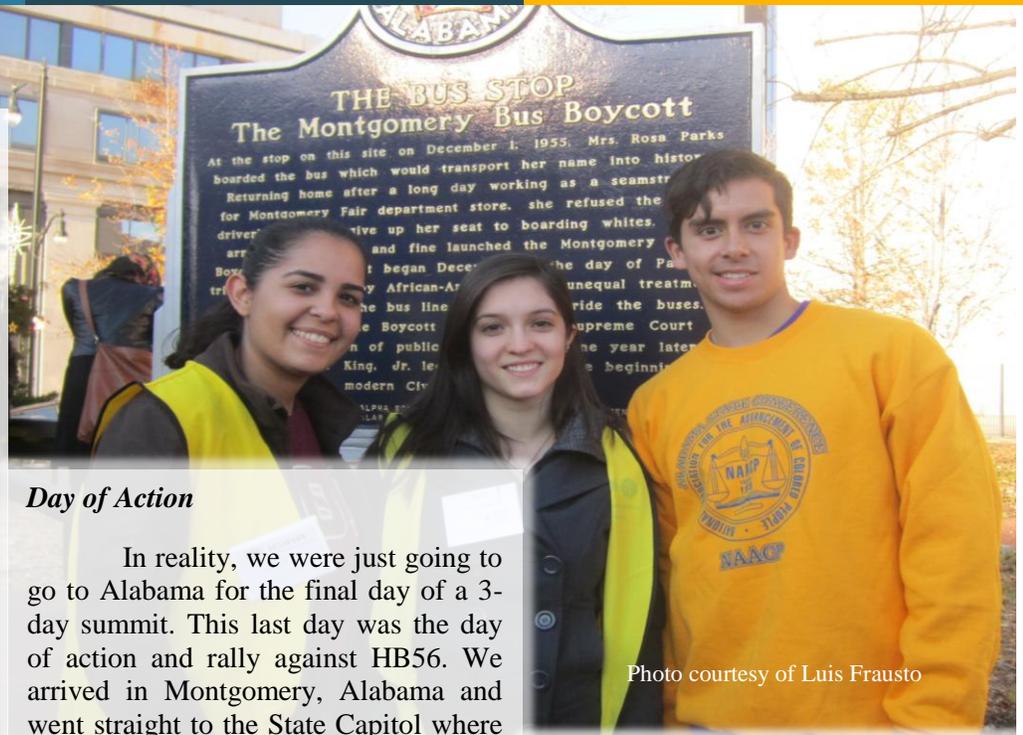
The genuine and sincere concern with protecting immigrant rights was fueled by a variety of lived experiences.

I met a woman from Nebraska who shared with me that she began to get involved in organizing after witnessing her neighbor being taken away by the police without any substantial reasoning. As a mother she couldn't imagine the pain of being forced to abandon her family. A group of high school students informed me that since the introduction of the bill in Alabama many of their classmates and friends disappeared and stopped attending classes. Their reason for being involved came from a desire to not only make schools and institutions of higher education safer for undocumented students, but to also ensure fair and equal access to education throughout the state.

(continued)

The convention served as a medium to connect different organizations and people from all over the country together in order to prevent what was occurring in Alabama from taking place in their respective states and towns. However, while I felt revitalized and ready to share what I learned in Montgomery with others back home and on campus, I couldn't help but notice the diversity of people walking around from one activity to another. Although the immigrant rights movement may be seen as a solely Latino-based community issue, that was not reflected in the people who attended the conference. The NAACP was a perfect example of this as they opened the conference, announcing their new initiative to assist in advocating for immigrant rights. It became apparent to me that my involvement in the Latino community did not legitimize my presence at the conference any more than the person to my right or to my left. Like others in attendance, I would never find myself being victimized by a law like HB 56. However, we were there to raise awareness and address an injustice faced by a group of people that we associate with. Reverend Vivian said, "There is never a time to stop. We must all continue struggling for the freedom of all others." In retrospect, I realize that as a student, I am not and should never be limited to 4 years of college when it comes to being engaged within immigrant rights advocacy. I have years ahead of me and I mustn't forget that "there is never a time to stop."

Luis Frausto '12



Day of Action

In reality, we were just going to go to Alabama for the final day of a 3-day summit. This last day was the day of action and rally against HB56. We arrived in Montgomery, Alabama and went straight to the State Capitol where the rally had already begun. We then put on the yellow ICIRR vests and took posters that protested the unjust law. People from all over the country as well as from Alabama had gathered for the rally. Many different people representing different organizations made speeches about the evils of HB56. What was most exciting was the fact that the NAACP had joined forces with the immigrant community for our cause. Another important figure to show support for Alabama immigrants was Democratic Senator, Bill Beasley who was calling upon Governor Bentley to repeal this anti-immigrant law. After all the speeches were done, it was finally time to march to the Governor's mansion. The children were the ones who were in front leading the march. This was supposed to symbolize the future and power since these children will one day grow up and have the power to vote. These children are also the ones being most affected by these anti-immigrant laws. Many families are being torn apart and children were being left without parents. In fact, family was such an important thing that throughout the beginning of the rally at the State

Photo courtesy of Luis Frausto

Capitol and continuing through with the march, the phrase of the day was "Una familia, una Alabama" or "One Family, One Alabama." We marched on through the streets demanding the repeal of HB56. Finally, we got to the Governor's mansion where the president of the NAACP spoke about the law and the unity of the African-American community with the Latino community. Then, children in both English and Spanish read letters out loud explaining how this law has affected them personally. They then promised to deliver more letters from children from all over the state of Alabama. The crowd was energized and it felt unbelievable to see so much unity. Finally, to end our trip, we visited Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Church as well as the National Civil Rights Memorial. It was a feeling unlike any seeing so much history in the fight for civil rights. Their fight reminded me of the fight we were currently facing. With this in mind, seeing the support of the NAACP inspired me even more. This trip truly left me feeling energized and ready to fight.

Isely Hernandez '14



Photo courtesy of Sergio Alvarez

NAACP Commemorative Selma-Montgomery Marcha

By: Sergio Alvarez

On March 7-10th, I was fortunate enough to attend the commemorative Selma-Montgomery March. Every year, the NAACP holds a 5-day march and rally to commemorate the Selma-Montgomery March in order to draw attention to the issues facing African-Americans in America. Since the passage of H.B. 56 in Alabama, the nation's worst anti-immigrant law, the NAACP had reached out to the Fair Immigration Reform Movement and ICIRR (Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights) and offered to use the entire 4th day of their march to focus on immigrant rights issues. Through a scholarship provided by ICIRR, I was able to attend this historic act of coalition building.

For me, this presented a unique opportunity to immerse myself into the history of the civil rights movement, ultimately connecting the history of struggle within the Civil Rights Movement to the more recent Immigrant Rights Movement. While attending the event, I got to meet and

get to know a large number of people of many different backgrounds. Many of us would share stories that involved our own experiences of social injustices. Traveling to Alabama, we were also able to witness the narratives directly from the Alabama community that was presently dealing with the negative effects of H.B. 56.

Many of the stories expanded on destruction of families, as well as the destruction of entire communities as a result of the fear that H.B. 56 had imposed on Alabama's residents. During the rallies, I witnessed many moments of black-brown unity in which the Black and Latino community discuss how they share the same struggle as a result of racism and how both groups navigate various forms of oppression

Personally, what I was most inspired by was by the two young children that were brought on the trip with their mother. The two children, a girl and a boy, who were the ages of five and six, had attended all of the events, including the 12-mile march

and the late night rallies.

All the while, these two children couldn't have been any happier to be part of the trip and interact with such a diverse group of adults. In an age in which we face numerous sickening issues regarding racial inequality and social injustice, it was these two children who helped me truly envision the potential of the continuing struggle that we choose to fight against, just as the people before me who struggled towards equality within the Civil Rights era allowed for me to be part of academia and of Latina and Latino Studies here at Northwestern.

Sergio Alvarez '13



Photo courtesy of Anthony Iglesias

César Chávez Day

By: Anthony Iglesias

This year, Omega Delta Phi's Alpha Alpha chapter commemorated the life and legacy of César Chávez with a communal day of service on March 31st, 2012. The chapter invited Northwestern University students, Evanston residents, high school students, and Chicago college students to learn about Chávez' contributions and serve the surrounding Latino Chicago communities through grass roots organizations. This year, we focused on undocumented youth/communities, food shelters, and neighborhood beautification. The chapter teamed with a recently new program under the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, Uniting America, by organizing community members to serve a Latino neighborhood and commemorate the day of Chávez' birth. In the morning address, Northwestern alumnus and ODPi brother Jose Alonso spoke about the power of law and community action when standing up for others.

“The chapter wanted to serve and improve the surrounding Latino communities through volunteer efforts.”

Alonso serves as staff attorney with the Illinois Migrant Legal Assistance Project, representing farm workers in disputes over wages and housing. Many have come to Illinois to work on farms growing corn, strawberries, and fruit. Alonso makes sure farm workers get paid fairly and are treated with dignity.

His parents were undocumented immigrants from Mexico who received legal status in 1986 in the Reagan-era amnesty program. Alonso grew up in Pilsen and the Back of the Yards neighborhoods on the southwest side of Chicago. He graduated from Northwestern University in 2003. At Northwestern, he majored in political science and sociology, and earned a Thesis with Distinction award for his thesis entitled, "Mexican-American Youth Identity: Assimilation or Group Identity."

The overall goal for this program was to educate the Northwestern community about César Chávez and the United Farm Workers' movement. The chapter wanted to serve and improve the surrounding Latino communities through volunteer efforts. Through volunteering, the program strengthened the multicultural campus community, especially the Latino community, by refocusing the efforts and roles of university students so they may give back to their communities. Furthermore, the program served to diminish the psychological gap between the Northwestern suburban campus and Chicago urban communities, specifically the Black and Latino populations. Evanston has an extensive history of racial exclusion, including violence and legal subjugation. This program marked the shift away from that history and promoted an explicit relationship between the university and the underserved Latino communities. Over a dozen Latino Evanston Township High School students attended the event and volunteered at the Evanston Public Library.

In total, the event attracted 98 volunteers from around the Midwest, including Omega Delta Phi brothers from Arizona, Wisconsin, and Illinois. Volunteers worked with children at the Holy Cross-Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in the historic Back of the Yards neighborhood. They discussed the importance of César Chávez and participated in a beautification service project with the children. In Pilsen, a group of volunteers worked at the San Pio V church soup kitchen, providing nutritional services to the homeless and underserved. Finally volunteers cleaned up the Skokie Northshore Channel Sculpture Park with Uniting America, the ICIRR service project. The program will continue to be an annual tradition for Omega Delta Phi Fraternity

Anthony Iglesias '13



Photo courtesy of Anthony Iglesias

LLSP COLLABORATES



The Latina and Latino Program in collaboration with Alianza (the Hispanics/Latino Student Alliance), Asian American Studies, African American Studies and American Studies, screened the documentary *Precious Knowledge*. Following the screening was a question and answer period with the producer Erin McGinnis. *Precious knowledge* illustrates an epic civil rights battle as brave students and teachers battle with lawmakers and public opinion in an effort to keep their ethnic studies classes alive. In order to raise awareness about the war against ethnic studies in Arizona and across the country, McGinnis encouraged students and faculty to purchase the documentary and host screenings with family and friends.



BUILDING *COMUNIDAD* FROM AN ALUMNI PERSPECTIVE



Aldo Gallardo '09

I graduated in 2009 with a major in sociology and minor in Latina/o studies. For almost two years, I have been the Multicultural Resource Center Director at Northside Community Resources (formerly the Rogers Park Community Council), where I provide direct services and referrals to low-income, Spanish-speaking immigrants and refugees on the north side of Chicago. I primarily assist with issues of housing, immigration, public benefits, and legal rights and responsibilities. In January, I organized the North Side Immigrant College Forum at Sullivan High School that featured a panel discussion with speakers from immigrant organizations and educational nonprofits and a mini-college fair that focused on undocumented students. I am also on the executive board of the Latino Alumni of Northwestern University (LANU) and serve as its secretary. It has been a pleasure to stay connected to the university, meet engaging young Wildcats, and make new acquaintances from a variety of professional fields. In the future, I plan on pursuing a career in public interest and social justice law.

Arianna Hermosillo '10

These days I'm a writer for Imagination Publishing, a custom content and marketing agency in Chicago. My writing covers a variety of clients and industries including finance, insurance and health. I am also co-teaching basic journalism at Radio Arte, a community-based radio station in the Pilsen neighborhood. My students come from all over the Chicago land area and after this part of a year-long training course, they will go on to learn more about radio and broadcast in general. I've returned to my hometown of Summit and am also volunteering with a couple of high school organizations there.





ARTIST IN RESIDENCE: *Antonio Martorell*

Antonio Martorell (b. 1939, Santurce, Puerto Rico) is a well known Puerto Rican painter, graphic artist, writer and radio and television personality. Martorell worked with Lorenzo Homar in his workshop for the Institute of Arts and Culture in Puerto Rico. Martorell developed as a printmaker, sign maker, and illustrator under the mentorship of Homar and later established his own workshop called Taller Alacrán (The Scorpion Workshop) that created many politically thematic posters for Puerto Rican Universities during the 1970's. Since then, Martorell's dynamic career includes contributions to theater, stage design, and performance art.

The Artist in Residence Program brings innovative artists working in diverse media to campus for quarter-long residencies to facilitate the production of new work, give the Northwestern community insight into the process of production, and recognize the importance of the fine arts to the humanities. Spring 2012 AIR Antonio Martorell is co-presented by the Latina/o Studies Program. ~ *Kaplan Institute for the Humanities*



Photo courtesy of Kaplan Institute



Photo courtesy of Kaplan Institute



Photo courtesy of Kaplan Institute



Photo courtesy of Kaplan Institute

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"The Insignificant Other: The Very Young and the Very Old in Our Society"

In a youth and consumer oriented society, the very young and the very old are the most disenfranchised components. They are both totally dependent, unproductive, speechless, powerless. The significance of the very young is in the future, of the very old it is in the past. Subservient to the dictatorship of time, their space is confined to the crib or the bed. Being unable to earn their keep they are subjected to either love or charity. Defenseless in the face of violence, they are victims of neglect and assault, abuse and deprivation.

In a series of prints, drawings, mixed media images and text I will develop, in workshops with those who are willing to participate, an investigation and presentation of some of the infinite possibilities showing the significance of those who are regarded and treated as insignificant. I feel there are revealing similarities in these others we have been and inevitably will become unless death intervenes before.

With the disappearance of the nuclear family, the increase of migration, life expectancy growth, single parent homes and old age pensions cuts, these others are in great need of recognition and attention. Art is one of the many possibilities to bring attention to the past and future of humankind. ~ Antonio Martorell

LLSP MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Does Northwestern have a Latin@ community? Are you a part of it? Can you see it? Who are its members? What's the point? We hear talk of a "community"—or at least the need for one. But why? Why put in the effort to try to develop something so nebulous as a "community," if we don't even know what one at Northwestern could even look like? These kinds of questions were the ones that brought a few graduate students together to form The Latin@ Studies Mentorship Program. We know that Northwestern students are smart, we know that you are all over-achievers, but why do it? For me, I strive to be the best—to always be better. But, I know that to be better requires a community of like-minded people looking to help each other and anyone else out to make us all better. This, in short, is our goal with the mentorship program: to help as many undergraduates become the best they can be while simultaneously building a better Northwestern community. We all have our roles in this community, ours is to help you. What is yours? Come and let's figure it out together.

LATINA/O STUDIES

Mentorship Program OPEN TO ALL UNDERGRADS

E-MAIL latinao-studies@northwestern.edu for more information or to join our list-serv. You can also find us on Facebook or stop by the Latina/o Studies office for more information.

LATINO@ CHICAGO SPEAKERS SERIES

This academic year the Latina and Latino Studies Program hosted seven events on Latin@s in Chicago. Guest speakers from various disciplines were invited to speak to Northwestern students, faculty and community.



Latino Chicago Demographics Panel

Onésimo Sandoval and Michael Rodríguez-Muñiz
Respondent: Héctor Cordero- Guzmán

September 29th, 2011



Neighborhood Obituaries, Resilient Communities: Urban Life in Puerto Rican Chicago:

Mérida M. Rúa
Respondent: Lorrin Thomas

October 13th, 2011



Chicanas on 18th Street: A Book Presentation

Author: Leonard G. Ramírez with Yenelli Flores, María Gamboa, Isaura González, Victoria Pérez, Magda Ramírez-Castañeda, and Cristina Vital

January 25th, 2012

The Making of Puerto Rican Chicago: Reflections on the Work of Elena Padilla

Mérida M. Rúa
Respondent: Ralph Cintrón and Marisxa Alicea
Special Guest: Elena Padilla

November 19th, 2011

Unveiling the Past: Immigration, Labor, Race and Social Movements in Mexican/Chicano Chicago

History Symposium
February 25th, 2012

On Latino Politics and Immigration

Amalia Pallares and Gina Pérez
Respondent: Michael Jones Correa
Moderator: Jaime Domínguez

April 13th, 2012

Latino Writers on Chicago: A Round Table and Reading

Achy Obejas
Luis Humberto Valadez
Rey Andújar
Brenda Cárdenas
Moderators: John Alba Culter
Richard T. Rodríguez

May 4th, 2012



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Frances Aparicio [Director of Latina & Latino Studies Program] received the 2012 Frank Bonilla Public Intellectual Award, a recognition given by the Latino Studies Section of the Latin American Studies Association. In addition she received the Multicultural Student Affairs faculty award in recognition for bringing the community together.

Héctor Carrillo [Associate Professor of Sociology and Gender Studies] received the 2012-13 Fellowship to the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study where he will be in residence next year.

Anthony Iglesias [LLSP Undergraduate Major] received a \$1,000 research grant from the Latin American and Caribbean Studies program to undertake research in Belize on his project about the Belizean Diaspora.

Michelle Cajigas [LLSP Undergraduate Major] received the 2012 Outstanding Senior Thesis Award in the Latina and Latino Studies program for her thesis entitled “The Conceptualization of Biracial Identities in Latina/o Oriented Organizations”

LLSP would like to congratulate our graduating majors and minors: **Samantha Terrazas, Mayra Garcia, René Rodríguez, Tonantzin Carmona, Irene Romulo, Michelle Cajigas and Leah Martinez**. Thank you for your dedication to the LLSP. ¡Felicidades!

FALL 2012 COURSE OFFERINGS

Latino 391: Latinos and the Long Civil Rights Era

Mike Amezcua

Tuesday/Thursday 12:30-1:50 PM

Latino 394: Latin@s As Immigrants: Legal & Political Approaches Era

Adriana Moreno Nevárez

Wednesday 5:00-7:50 PM

Latino 392: Latin@s in Education: Historical & Contemporary Issues and Perspectives

Ramona Meza

Thursday 4:00 -6:50 PM

Spanish 230: Margins and Centers in Latin American Literature and Culture

Emily A. Maguire

Monday/Wednesday 10:00-11:20 AM

Latino 399: Independent Study in Latina & Latino Studies

Frances Aparicio

(e-mail Dr. Aparicio for consent)