

Chicano/Latino Faculty & Staff Association

Visit the CLFSA Website Today!

Fall 2005



Welcome from the President

Welcome to the new term. *Bienvenidos al año académico nuevo.* I always look forward to the new academic year. As I get older, it represents a fresh new start and is reassuring to *nosotros los viejos (o mejor dicho, los veteranos)* that change is good and to be challenged is also good.

We are starting our second year with the Title V Grant and will soon be participating in another HACU conference. President Gordon, Dr. Abrego and I recently participated in an award ceremony where the California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce recognized the campus with the President's Award for Educational Excellence as the outstanding institution of higher learning in California. We can all be proud of this award because it represents the success of the collective efforts of staff, faculty and students to make this campus a place where "learning is pre-eminent" and where Chicano/Latino students can be successful. This is especially true for us in the

Chicano/Latino Faculty and Staff Association. Yet, given the dreary statistics that record the challenges Latinos face in Orange (less than 12% of graduating Latino high school seniors are college ready) and other counties here in California, success in educational achievement for many is illusory. We have many obstacles to overcome before we can truly say, with pride, that Cal State Fullerton is indeed a Hispanic serving campus. We must work closely with parents and future students still in elementary school to enable them to be our next generation of successful Latino students who walk across the stage to receive a college diploma. Not only must we instill the belief in our own students here at Cal State Fullerton that *¡Si se puede!* but in the children in Santa Ana, Anaheim, West Fullerton, Pacoima and Pomona as well. We must work closely with our own students to motivate a sense of collective community, responsibility

and commitment of service to our communities through internships and service learning projects. Therefore, I am proposing that our association make the 2005-2006 academic year the year of "Latino Outreach." Please be prepared to suggest action plans that will involve us, the Latino faculty, staff, and students in the service areas of the University to improve the success rates and expand educational opportunities for Latino students in grades K-12. This will be the primary topic for our next CLFSA meeting on October 7, 2005. This is our collective responsibility as role models, as leaders in our communities and here on our campus. It is the challenge we face. We too must believe that *¡Si se puede!* applies to us as well.

Dr. Donald Castro
President, CLFSA
Special Assistant to the
President, CSUF



Inside this issue:

Robert Castro Awarded Yale Fellowship	2
M.E.Ch.A Conference	2
Latino/a Greeks @ CSUF	3
Books & Websites	3
CLFSA and Campus News	4
CSUF Student Highlights	4
CLFSA Scholarship Recipients	4

The California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce recognized Cal State Fullerton with the President's Award for Educational Excellence

Robert Castro Awarded Yale Fellowship

Robert Castro, assistant professor in Chicana/o studies, was awarded a Post-Doctoral Associate Fellowship from Yale University's Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition. Castro joined Cal State Fullerton in 2002 and was one of six scholars from across the nation to be selected for this prestigious fellowship focusing on slavery. The award includes a cash stipend, residency at Yale University, and a public lecture based on his research.

Castro's research focuses on the treatment of Indians enslaved by the Spanish. While conducting research for his dissertation, Castro examined the legal ramifications of Indian enslavement with a focus on the Southwest, particularly New Mexico. Castro believes that little attention has been paid to the impact corresponding institutions and Indian-mestizo servitude has had on Indians and mestizos in the Southwest. According to Castro, although Indians were not considered slaves in the traditional sense, there was a dependency that was created by borderland customs of ritualized servitude. He believes there is a strong connection between historic slave systems such as Indian-mestizo servitude and modern day activities such as human trafficking.

During his January fellowship, Castro will focus on the government's attitudes toward Indian enslavement. He believes the government's anti-slavery activities were focused on black slavery in the South, which deeply affected the government's priorities. His research links two formerly segregated slave histories, black and Indian-mestizo, through the prism of federal civil rights law. His hope is to shed light on the enslavement of Indians and mestizos in order to strengthen our understanding of how slavery functioned in America.



Felicitaciones Robert!
Felicitaciones Robert!

M.E.Ch.A 3-Day Conference

**M.E.Ch.A. brings students, community leaders and educators together for a three day conference
October 7th -9th, 2005 @ CSUF
Article by Santiago Garcia**



In April of 1969 Chicana/o students, educators and leaders from throughout the country met at the University of California, Santa Barbara. It was at this gathering that the philosophy of Movimiento Estudiantil Chicana/o de Aztlan (M.E.Ch.A.) was born and [El Plan de Santa Barbara](#) was established. This plan of higher education opened the doors to Raza youth and addressed the needs and the importance of implementing Chicana and Chicano Studies in our school curriculum.



Twice a year hundreds of Mechistas from all over California meet to discuss their progressive political agenda as well as draft goals for the upcoming semester. This semester, M.E.Ch.A. de CSUF has the privilege of hosting the statewide conference. Students, educators and community leaders from across the country will be in attendance. This semester's conference theme is "Cultural Self-Determination, Prevents youth Incarceration". Conference participants will attend a number of workshops and caucus groups related to the theme and will have the opportunity to engage in discussions and learn about Chicana/o culture as well as the contemporary issues within the community. Participants will also enjoy live entertainment while food is served and

invited guests speak on current issues. The day's events will culminate in a statewide action where participants of the conference will have the opportunity assist in the painting of a culturally youth driven mural in Old Town Placentia. The mural is a joint project with the Citizens for a Better Placentia, a progressive local community organization. The location of the mural, Placita Santa Fe "Old Town", has been in question for not producing enough business and community services; there was even a threat of an entire demolition of this area just a year ago. Yet in 2005 after years of negotiations, city officials, business owners and community leaders came to an agreement that would renovate and beautify the historic landmark. Since its new fate "Old Town" is now the site of new businesses and community service reconstructions. The mural is intended to promote cultural values, youth prosperity and a new beginning.



M.E.Ch.A. de CSUF hopes that conference participants will learn something greater about themselves and feel empowered and inspired to reach greater heights. To learn more about the Fall 2005 M.E.Ch.A. Statewide Conference and how you can be a part of this significant event, please visit: www.mechacsuf.org

Latino/a Greeks @ CSUF

Breaking the Latino/a Greek Stereotype

Article by Maricela Alvarado and Joaquin Valdez

Collegiate Greek sororities and fraternities have been in existence for many years and have held a strong position on university campuses across the nation. Yet, Greek membership has a negative connotation due to hazing incidents that have occurred and the negative portrayal of Greeks on television. Among these are Latino Greeks, which have begun to appear on university campuses from coast to coast. Unfortunately for these groups, the negative connotations and characteristics attached to mainstream Greeks have also been associated with Latino Greek membership.

Cal State Fullerton is home to several Latino/a and Multicultural fraternities and sororities that are working hard to break the negative stereotypes associated with Greek membership. Cal State Fullerton Alumni **Joaquin Valdez**, founder of Lambda Theta Phi Latin Fraternity, Inc.- Colony and **Maricela Alvarado**, founder of Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority, Inc.- Gamma Lambda Chapter felt there was a need to establish a Latino Greek community that would provide Brotherhood/ Sisterhood, involvement in the Latino community, educational leadership, networking opportunities, political consciousness and unification of all Latinos. Latino Greek organizations on campus are composed of dedicated women and men who strive for high expectations and are constantly looking for opportunities to collaborate with other Latino/a organizations. In an effort to bridge the gap between the Latino campus community and Latino Greeks, these organizations are actively involved with MESA Cooperativa and have assisted in planning various events such as the Bienvenida and Hispanic Heritage Month activities.

Lambda Theta Alpha has collaborated with CSUF Women's Center and the YWCA of Northern Orange in sponsoring *Fight Like a Girl*, a self-defense class, and raised funds to donate to YWCA's Beyond Shelter for victims of domestic violence. Additionally, sorority members have volunteered at the annual CLFSA student graduation and sold flowers to raise funds for scholarships. The women also take pride in volunteering for Working Wardrobes, *A Day of Self-Esteem*, an event which empowers victims of domestic violence by providing them with professional dress attire, interviewing skills and self-esteem workshops. Lambda Theta Alpha members have also facilitated many educational workshops and dialog groups concerning women's issues.

Lambda Theta Phi has been involved with the Orange and L.A. County communities. Recently, members worked with the elderly Latino population at the Bradford Senior Center in the city of Placentia and participated in the "Brown Bag" fundraiser by collecting donations for food items to be stuffed in brown paper bags for the elderly. Lambda Theta Phi's philanthropy is school mentoring. In working with Noah Teen Center in Santa Ana, they provide guidance and motivation to Latino students and have tutored middle and high school students in various subjects. They have also participated in workshops tailored to Latino men that focus on college survival, anti-hazing, and financial management for college students. In collaboration with Compton Unified School District, members have also participated in *Toys for Tots* and have assisted in cleaning graffiti found in the streets of South Los Angeles.

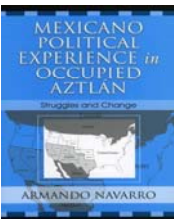
Contrary to popular belief, Latino Greeks have an impressive record of community service and extensive leadership. Latino Greeks are committed to promoting cultural awareness, higher education for Latinos, and community involvement.

Books

Websites

Mexicano Political Experience in Occupied Aztlán: Struggles and Change

By Armando Navarro (UC Riverside)



Navarro offers a current and comprehensive political history of the Mexicano experience in the U. S. He examines in-depth topics such as American political culture, electoral politics, demography, and organizational development. Viewing Mexicanos as an occupied and colonized people, he calls for the formation of a new movement to reinvigorate the struggle for resistance and change among Mexicanos. Navarro envisions a new political and cultural landscape as the dominant Latino population "Re-Mexicanizes" the U.S. into a more multicultural/ethnic society.

- ◆ **BlueLatinos.org** is a national online organization for progressive Latinos. **BlueLatinos.org** includes the next generation of action-oriented Latinos who are taking ownership of their lives and political futures and working to make America better for everyone. **BlueLatinos.org** includes concerned individuals who are exercising their democratic right to organize.
- ◆ The mission of **BlueLatinos.org** is simple: To organize progressive Latinos online and harness energy and resources to move voters, particularly Latino voters, toward progressive issues and action. We are using the best tools available to reach out and connect to other progressive Latinos throughout the country. We are the best messengers to communicate with Latino voters on issues that matter. Are you blue? **Visit BlueLatinos.org!!**
- ◆

CLFSA Graduates

CONGRATULATIONS CLFSA GRADUATES!

Diana Avendaño graduated from Cal State Fullerton in May 2005 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology. Diana graduated with Magna Cum Laude honors and will soon pursue her Master's degree in higher education. Diana is currently working with Admission to Teacher Education in the College of Education.

Gina Garcia graduated from the University of Maryland, College Park in May 2005 with a Master of Arts degree in College Student Personnel. Gina also received the Outstanding Latino/a Graduate Student Award at the inaugural Latino/a graduation ceremony at the university. Gina is now working with Title V initiatives in the College of Engineering and Computer Science and the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics.

Campus News

This year **Nancy Porras Hein** will be serving as the Vice Chair of Chicana/o Studies Department and **Reyes Fidalgo** from Modern Languages will serve as the acting chair of the department.

Two mathematics faculty were among the five 2005–2006 College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics Dean's Awards recipients. **Dr. Armando Martinez-Cruz** was chosen for the Dean's Award for Outstanding Teaching and **Dr. Ernie Solheid** was chosen to receive the Dean's Award for Outstanding Contributions to Student Success.

CSUF Student Highlights

Micah Ornelas was one of twelve student winners for the 2005-2006 William R. Hearst/CSU Trustees' Award for Outstanding Achievement. Micah is a double major in business administration and psychology and served as the president of the CSUF Mesa Cooperative in 2004-2005. He also serves as an instructor for Credit Smart En Espanol, a program which helps students and their families for whom English is a second language learn how to build and preserve good credit. The system-wide award provides \$3,000 scholarships to financially needy students who demonstrate superior academic performance and outstanding community service. These students are exceptional because they have overcome profound personal challenges to achieve academic success.

Applause goes to two outstanding Latina students who served as 2005 NSO leaders. In addition to their duties as NSO Leaders, **Diana Lira** and **Mariana Biagioni** provided Spanish translation services for Family Orientation. **Crystal Castellanos** from the Dean of Students Office also worked with family members in need of translation services. Many Spanish-speaking families took advantage of this service.

Mariana Biagioni and **Kayla Gradillas**, two Latina student leaders on campus, are filling two of the three 2006 Student Program Coordinators positions for New Student Programs.

CLFSA Scholarships

Congratulations to the following CLFSA scholarship recipients:

Graduate Student

Larry Chapa

MBA w/ option in Management

Undergraduate Students

Stephanie Cuellar

B.A. Business Administration

Michael DeLeon

B.S. Human Services

Fabiola Gonzalez

B.S. Computer Science

Lidia Lopez

B.A. Communications, Entertainment Studies

Melissa Manzanarez

B.S. Human Services

Rocio Mendoza

B.S. Human Services; B.A. Sociology

Johanna Robles

B.A. Business Administration

Deanna Plascencia

B.A. Communications-Entertainment Studies

Daniel Vidrio

B.A. History; B.A. Ethnic/Chicano Studies

CLFSA scholarships are funded by members and friends of the Chicano/Latino Faculty & Staff Association. Supporting student success is a major goal of our organization each year and we applaud the recipients.



<http://www.fullerton.edu/deanofstudent/clfsa/>

Join today! Visit us on-line!