Chicano/Latino Faculty and Staff

Spring into Academia

New Latino Faculty at California State University, Fullerton

We would like to welcome the new faculty and staff to the CLFSA. The new faculty were introduced at the 2014 CLFSA Welcome and Reception held this year at the Vintage Rose in the city of Orange

We would like to introduce, **Dr. Fernando Rodríguez-Valls**. He is an associate professor of

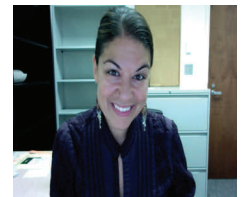secondary education. He is a native of Spain and previously served as the State Administrator of the Migrant Education Program at the California Department of Education. His research interests include bi-literacy instruction and migrant education.

Let us introduce and welcome, **Dr. Mendez.** She received her B.A. in the Interdisciplinary Studies Program (Comparative Cultures) from California State Dominguez Hills, and her M.A. and Ph.D. in the Philosophy, Interpretation and Culture Program at SUNY Binghamton. Her research focuses on the (de)construction of race, sex, gender and sexuality at the intersection of science and religion. Her work brings together Women of Color and Decolonial

Feminisms, Sexuality Studies, Latin American and Caribbean Area Studies, Science Studies, and Afro-Latin@ Religion, Philosophies, and ways of knowing in an effort to explore alternative grounds for the (re)making of social relations, histories, intimacies, and resistant possibilities.

Scholarship Award Recipient

We would also like to welcome, **Dr. Claudia Pineda**. She is an assistant professor of Child and

Adolescent Studies. She obtained her doctorate from Harvard Graduate School of Education. She was trained as a Psychologist at the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana in Colombia. Dr. Pineda's academic interests are in the area of immigration research, specifically on the educational and psychosocial impact of family separations on the children left behind due to parental international migration. Dr. Pineda is also interested in youth risk-taking behavior and resilience. She has worked on various research and evaluation studies of prevention programs aimed at promoting positive development in youths. Her dissertation integrated both her interests of ethnic identity and psychosocial development of immigrant Colombian youth in the context of an artistic intervention that taught them to dance and perform Colombian folkloric dances in Boston.

This years scholarship recipient was **Claudia Itzel Marquez**. Claudia was born and raised

in Boyle Heights, California. The community of Boyle Heights is composed of mostly working class immigrant families. She is the first member of her family to attend college. Claudia attributes her perseverance and motivation to pursue a college education to her parents' courage and resiliency to overcome economic, cultural, and language barriers. She is completing her Bachelor's of Fine Arts in Drawing and Painting. She identifies her up bringing in an urban community as having few opportunities. It was a constant challenge for her to seek alternative forms of learning, healing, expression, and empowerment. For her, art has been an invaluable tool for promoting her well-being and personal development. She is currently studying abroad in Florence, Italy. She is attending the *Academia di Belle Arti* for the fall and spring semesters. While there she plans on strengthening her painting skills and developing a series of portraits exploring her identity, family genealogy, and borderlands. She traveled to Italy to expand her horizons as an artist. She knows through studying abroad she will gain a wider spectrum of tools and knowledge in order to better contribute to the wellness of her community back home. She feels blessed to have the opportunity to immerse herself in a culturally rich experience that will nourish her personal growth. Claudia is very humbled to have been selected as this year's Chicano/Latino Faculty and Staff Association scholarship recipient. The CLFSA scholarship will contribute to her personal and professional development while in Florence.