FROM THE DIRECTOR

As the Latina/Latino Studies Program Interim Director for the 2007-2008 academic year, it is my privilege to report on the great milestones the program has achieved during the past year.

For starters, the Program witnessed a record-number of graduating Latina/o Studies minors (19 minors) and Individual Plan of Study majors in Latina/o (6 majors). We also moved closer to departmental status by putting forward a proposal for an undergraduate major in Latina/Latino Studies and a proposal to reorganize the Program into the “Department of Latina/o Studies.” Both proposals are currently awaiting approval by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

In addition, this Fall 2008 we premier our new Graduate Minor in Latina/o Studies. Graduate students already enrolled in a program of study will now be able to minor in Latina/o Studies. For more information about the Graduate Minor in Latina/o Studies visit our website at http://www.lli.illinois.edu. An essential ingredient of the Program’s current success is its world-class faculty. In the Fall of 2007, the Latina/Latino Studies Program welcomed three new faculty members – Jonathan Inda, Gilberto Rosas, and Edna Viruell-Fuentes and Chancellor’s Postdoctoral Research Associate Michelle Tellez. This year we add to the Program’s energy by welcoming many new faces with incoming assistant professor (joint with the Department of History), Cary Cordova; visiting assistant professor (joint with Asian American Studies Program), W. David Coyoca; two Chancellor’s Postdoctoral Research Associates, Darrel Enck-Wanzer and Lori Rodriguez, and visiting research associate and Woodrow Wilson Fellow, John McKiernan-González, who joins us for the year from the University of Texas-Austin.

We also formally and happily welcome into our fold some familiar campus faces. After many years of service and teaching for the Program, Alejandro Lugo officially transferred part of his faculty line. A foundational member of the Program, Alejandro will be an Associate Professor of Anthropology and Latina/o Studies. Also joining our Program effective Fall 2008 is Gender and Women’s Studies Assistant Professor Kirstie Dorr, who is transferring part of her line into Latina/o Studies.

Exemplifying the nationally recognized scholarship of our Program, a record number of faculty have also received faculty fellowships — Lisa Cacho, Julie Dowling, Jonathan Inda, and Gilberto Rosas. This summer the Program also became the first ethnic and racial studies program at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign to successfully recruit and tenure a joint-appointed faculty member — Richard T. Rodriguez, newly minted associate professor in English and Latina/o Studies. Congratulations to the Program’s esteemed colleagues! For a full list of faculty achievements see page 6.

Despite the Program’s many achievements, this was also a year of profound sadness as we bore witness to the unexpected and tragic passing of one of the strongest and fiercest advocates of Latina/o Studies and Latina/o students at UIUC – Cathy Acevedo, Associate Dean of Students. Cathy’s profound impact on Latina/o student life will be felt for many decades. She was the primary force behind such important programs as Latina/o Family Visit Day and counseled many Latina/o students as they worked towards graduation.

In honor of Cathy’s work, La Casa Cultural Latina renamed its Outstanding Faculty/Staff Service Award to the Cathy Acevedo Award for Commitment to Students. Fittingly, our own Alicia P. Rodriguez, LLSP Associate Director, was the first recipient of this award. Alicia’s commitment to students is exemplified by the continuing growth in the Program’s minors and majors and the development of one of the strongest and most cohesive curriculum in U.S. Latino/Latino Studies in the country. It is because of her efforts on behalf of students and the curriculum that the Program stands poised to offer its major.

Although the Program, its faculty and students achieved much this past year, we believe that 2008-2009 is positioned to be among our best year. Kicking off the Fall Semester is a lecture from Federico Subervi-Velez on U.S. Latina/o political participation in the presidential elections. In Spring 2009 the Program will host its fourth biennial Latina/o Studies Graduate Student Conference. And as part of the Rolando Hinojosa-Smith Lecture Series, we will be hosting leading Chicana feminist and writer Cherrie Moraga and Pulitzer Prize winner Junot Diaz. Please visit the Program’s website at www.lli.illinois.edu for an updated list of activities. We look forward to having the UIUC and Urbana-Champaign community join us throughout the year.
**Faculty**

Cary Cordova comes to the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, from Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, where she taught in American Studies. She earned her Ph.D. in American Studies from the University of Texas at Austin and received her B.A. in English Literature from the University of California, Los Angeles. She specializes in Latina/o cultural production, including art, music, and the performing arts. At the University of Illinois, she will continue to pursue her research on the intersections between art, social movements, identity formation, and culture. She is also preparing her manuscript, "The Heart of the Mission: Latino Art and Identity in San Francisco," for publication. Her articles include: "Hombres y Mujeres Muniñistas on a Mission: Painting Latino Identidades in 1970s San Francisco" in Latino Studies; and, "The Mission in Nicaragua: San Francisco Poets Go To War," in a forthcoming edited volume. She also has served as an archivist, curator, public historian, and oral historian for various public institutions, including the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and the Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

W. David Coyoca is a Visiting Assistant Professor in Latina/Latino Studies and Asian American Studies. He received his BA in Ethnic Studies from the University of California at San Diego and his MFA in fiction at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. His research interests include comparative race and ethnic studies, U.S. ethnic literatures, and popular culture. He is currently working on a collection of short stories set in California during the 1980's.

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**Postdoctoral Fellows & Associates**

Darrel Enck-Wanzer received his B.A. (1999) in Communication from the University of Puget Sound, and his M.A. (2001) and Ph.D. (2007) in Rhetoric and Public Culture in the Department of Communication and Culture at Indiana University. His research and teaching are grounded in Latina/o studies, democratic theory, and rhetorical theory. Most broadly, he is interested in the intersections of race and democracy in public discourse. At the moment, these interests have led Darrel to an extended project on the New York Young Lords, a radical Puerto Rican community organization most active in the late-1960s and early-1970s. He is currently finishing a collection of primary materials on the Young Lords entitled The Young Lords: A Reader (New York University Press, forthcoming). He is also authoring a book on the Young Lords and radical democratic practice. His work has appeared in the Quarterly Journal of Speech and Rhetoric & Public Affairs.

John Mckiernan-Gonazlez graduated from Oberlin College with degrees in Art History and Latin American Studies, both of which clearly prepared him for work as an epidemiologist in Cook County. He completed his Ph.D. at the University of Michigan, despite his work at the National Museum of American History on a variety of Latino-themed exhibits and projects and his involvement in folclorico.

He is fascinated by the ways public health policies and civil rights demands intersect with and collide with transnational social movements. Since high school he has worked with the Student Coalition for Community Health in Lowndes County, the VA division of the Cook County Department of Public Health and as an incredibly minor consultant for the National Minority AIDS Council. He translated this variety of interests into research on 19th and 20th popular mobilization and American public health policies in the Mexican border. One of the fruits of his research, the monograph, Fevered Measures: Connecting Public Health and Race at the Mexican Border, 1848-1942, is under contract at Duke University Press. His next project, Black Odysseys, Mexican Landscapes, American Borders examines the multiple ways the Comarca Lagunera (Mexico) also participated in the national politics of labor and citizenship in the United States. He participates in public history projects that involve 70s Chicano public radio, junior high schools, private museums, and day laborers. In his free time, he looks for soccer, tennis, and dance clubs that are heterotopias.

Lori Rodriguez received her Ph.D. in English with a specialization in Latina/o literature from the University of Texas at San Antonio. Her dissertation, "Mapping Tejana Epistemologies: Contemporary (Re)Constructions of Tejana Identity in Literature, Film and Popular Culture," was supported by a Ford Foundation Dissertation Diversity Fellowship and employs a borderlands theoretical framework to explore identity production and expression of Mexican-American women of South Texas. During her tenure as Postdoctoral Research Associate, Dr. Rodriguez plans to work on submitting various articles for journal publication as well as revising her dissertation into a book manuscript.
The Graduate Minor Offers...
A comprehensive program of study in Latina/Latino Studies research, theories and methodologies to graduate students who wish to structurally incorporate Latina/Latino Studies into their degree work. As U.S. Latina/os have become a central category of analysis in theories of ethnicity, race, gender, sexuality, and class in many disciplines and fields, the graduate minor strengthens students’ formal credentials and offers a versatile area of specialization. The graduate minor provides students with a theoretical and methodological foundation and a firm background in the history and culture of Latinas and Latinos in the United States from the perspective of the humanities, the social sciences, and other fields. The graduate minor allows students to assess how historical and cultural processes affect U.S. Latina/os in contemporary society. Furthermore, the transdisciplinary and transnational nature of Latina/Latino Studies provides students, whether or not they focus their graduate studies on Latina/o Studies, with the breadth of research and approaches taken by scholars in the field.

Admission
Applicants must be in good academic standing in a graduate or professional program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and demonstrate a proven interest and commitment in Latina/Latino Studies. Interested students must submit an application to the Latina/Latino Studies Program and receive approval to pursue the minor from their graduate or professional program. Application materials can be obtained at the Latina/Latino Studies Program office and at the Program’s website: www.lls.uiuc.edu

Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required Courses</th>
<th>Required Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LLS 577</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>LLS 597</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Two courses from approved departmental list</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Required Hours</td>
<td>16</td>
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Other Requirements:
Only 4 hours of credit may be cross listed with the student’s disciplinary unit.
The major department determines which and how many minor hours may also be applied to the major degree. Students should contact their department for more information.
Jumping Over Puddles with Frances Negrón-Muntaner

By Irene del Rio Guisbich

PhD Candidate University of Illinois 2008

In October 2007, Frances Negrón-Muntaner was invited to campus as part of the Rolando Hinojosa-Smith Lecture Series sponsored by Latina/Latino Studies. During her two-day visit, Negrón-Muntaner presented a paper titled “The ‘Look’ of Sovereignty: Style and Politics in the Young Lords.” Her talk was followed by a workshop on using media in the classroom and in the community. She included the visit with the viewing of the trailer of her documentary in progress “Regarding Vievies” and her one-hour documentary “Land of the Charnoros” as “For the Record: Guam and World War II.”

In her presentation “The ‘Look’ of Sovereignty: Style and Politics in the Young Lords,” Negrón-Muntaner argued how the Young Lords of New York—a Puerto Rican political group in the 60s and 70s—were able to become social activists and protagonists in US culture through style and clothing as ways of empowerment and of re-shaping the urban space. Her project on the Young Lords reiterates her personal and intellectual interests on representations of Puerto Rican national identity in diasporic spaces as she has been doing in her critical and interdisciplinary work such as her film “Brina-
cando el charco” (1994) and her collection of essays “None of the Above: Puerto Ricans in a Global Era,” among many other scholarly contributions.

Negrón-Muntaner’s workshop on teaching methodologies regarding the inclusion of diversity in the classroom was accomplished by examples of technology, visual media and games as effective and productive tools for students at different institutional levels to develop social and cultural awareness. On the last day of her visit, she showed a trailer of “Regarding Vievies,” which focuses on a commu-
nity’s hopes that expelled the US military base after numerous social protests to preserve the land and ecosystem. Finally, Negrón-Muntaner shared with the undergraduate and graduate students and professors who attended the event, her work “Land of the Charnoros” that documents the Japanese occupation of the US territory of Guam in World War II.

The variety of material presented during her visit emphasizes Negrón-Muntaner’s eagerness to unveil the voices and images of traditionally marginalized identities not only within the imaginary of Puerto Rican identity but also through a display of the consequences and implications of the US and Japanese invasion in Guam: a place almost lost to oblivion in US history. With all her investments in social and cultural issues, Negrón-Muntaner has established herself as a leading scholarly figure in Puerto Rican Studies and Queer Studies. Being a prolific writer, film-maker, cultural critic and profes-
sor at Columbia University, Negrón-Muntaner’s work until a small piece of the side academia she has been involved in since the 80s. Born in Puerto Rico to a family of academics, Negrón-Muntaner’s work includes film, creative writing, cultural criticism and politics. She obtained a B.A in Sociology at the University of Puerto Rico in 1986. Her PhD in Latin and Latino Studies and to illustrate how memory plays a fundamental role in the development of a Latino’s literary tradition. Yet their deep concern as educators and passionate promotion of young writers and artists were also part of the experience of their work as a scholar and writer. Primarily, Negrón-Muntaner’s work has been crucial in addressing sexuality, colonialism, nationalism and migration in Puerto Rican/Latino diasporic communities. One of her films, Brinacando el charco: Portrait of a Puerto Rican (1994) is actually a pseudo-autobiographical film that challenges the binary Latin and Latino, reading from a Puerto Rican national identity by privileging the lives and experiences of queers, Latinos, and Puerto Ricans in the US. It also digs into erased moments of Puerto Rican historical past through the archival documenta-
tion of the first migrations to the US. Other groundbreaking works that she has produced are Puerto Ricans in Jam: Rethinking Colonialism and Non colonialism, a collection of essays that presents a Puerto Rican Studies that questioned the idea that nationalism was the response to colonialism. Her book Boricua Pop: Puerto Ricans and the Latinization of American Culture introduces the concept of change as a central point of conventional discourses that excepted Puerto Ricans as a shamefully nation suffering from cultural inferiority complex. She proposes, however, to reconsider shame as a viable concept to induce interest and involvement in traditionally shameful identities such as queers or immigrants. Along with her theoretical contributions, she has helped founding programs and institutions to disseminate the work of Latino filmmakers and intellectuals. For all of us in the community studying and working on issues of gender, sexuality, queer studies, Latino cultures and Puerto Rican studies, it was a great pleasure and honor to have had the opportunity to participate in Negrón-Muntaner’s discussions here in Urbana-Champaign.

Writing Community:

Helena Maria Viramontes and Manuel Muñoz

By Richard T. Rodriguez

Assistant Professor of English and Latina/Latino Studies

“Fiction is my jaguar. For me it is a great consolation to know that whatever miserable things happen in my lifetime, goodwill will inevitably result because I will write about it. There is strength in this when none is left in the soul.”

Helena Maria Viramontes, from “Nopolazol”; The Making of Fiction

“The Valley… remains the foundation of my fiction. It took leaving (though I didn’t know it at the time) to realize that the Valley—how it shaped and raised me—has an undercurrent in every single thing I do, my entire way of being. It’s responsible for all of my emotions, both good and bad: the presence of that living geography has always been the key to how I create characters, how I know their lives and, most important, how I empathize with their choices, no matter what they are.”

Manuel Muñoz, from website biography

Renowned writers Helena Maria Viramontes and Manuel Muñoz visited the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign on April 23, 2009, as part of the Rolando Hinojosa-Smith Lecture Series. Calling their visit a success would understate the meaningful impact they had on students, staff, and faculty. In fact, many of us continue to rant and rave about their kindness and enthusiastic engagement with the campus community during those two days.

Born and raised in East Los Angeles, Helena Maria Viramontes is one of the most widely recognized and influential contemporary Latina writers. A Professor in the Department of English at Cornell University, she is the author of numerous essays, short stories, and books which include The Moths and Other Stories (1983), Yvonne (1992), and Jesus of Iwpaco (1995), and, most recently, Their Dogs Came With Them (2007). Viramontes serves as Manuel Muñoz’s advisor as he worked toward the comple-
tion of his Masters of Fine Arts degree in Creative Writing at Cornell. After completing his graduate studies, Muñoz—born and raised in Dinuba (located in California’s Central Valley)—published two powerful short story collections: Ziggurat (2003) and The Faith Healer of Olive Avenue (2007), which began a tenure-track position in Creative Writing at the University of Arizona in the fall of 2008, refers to Viramontes as his “literary guru” who “shaped his writing and aided in acquiring an essential knowledge of Chicano/a and Latino/a literary history. But it is evident in their face-to-face interactions that Muñoz has also come to serve as a motiv-
ating force for Viramontes.”

After writing an inspiring conversation between Viramontes and Muñoz sponsored by the Los Angeles Public Library, it occurred to me that bringing them to campus together would give others the chance to experience the ways in which the writers of different genres similarly engage with pressing issues pertaining to Latinas and Latinos and to illustrate how memory plays a fundamental role in the development of a Latino’s literary tradition. Yet their deep concern as educators and passionate promotion of young writers and artists were also part of the experience of their work as a scholar and writer. Primarily, Negrón-Muntaner’s work has been crucial in addressing sexuality, colonialism, nationalism and migration in Puerto Rican/Latino diasporic communities. One of her films, Brinacando el charco: Portrait of a Puerto Rican (1994) is actually a pseudo-autobiographical film that challenges the binary Latin and Latino, reading from a Puerto Rican national identity by privileging the lives and experiences of queers, Latinos, and Puerto Ricans in the US. It also digs into erased moments of Puerto Rican historical past through the archival documenta-
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ADRIAN BURGOS [Associate Professor, History and Latina/Latino Studies] has received wide acclaim for his book, Playing America's Game(s): Baseball, Latinos, and the Color Line (June 2007, the University of California Press). Notable recognition for the book includes:

- the Latina/o Book Award, Latin American Studies Association, September 2007
- Finalist, Seymour Medal, Society of American Baseball Researchers (SABR), June 2008; Robert Peterson Recognition Award, SABR, June 2007

ANTONIA DARDER [Professor, Educational Policy Studies] was awarded the Distinguished Senior Faculty Award in the College of Education. The second edition of The Critical Pedagogy Reader (Routledge), co-edited with Marta P. B-altodano and Rodolfo D. Torres and considered the foremost foundations text in the study of critical pedagogy, was released during summer 2008.

ROCHELLE GUTIERREZ [Associate Professor, Curriculum and Instruction] has an article in press and several other publications in 2008:


JONATHAN XAVIER INDA [Associate Professor, Latina/Latino Studies] received a Faculty Study in a Second Discipline Fellowship from the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences at University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. His publications in 2008 include:


ISABEL MOLINA [Associate Professor, Communications and Latina/Latino Studies] was nominated as a Fellow to the Big Ten Committee on Institutional Collaboration Academic Leadership Program for 2008-2009. She was also appointed associate editor of the new International Communication Association journal Communication, Culture & Critique. This past year she published the following book chapters:

- "Salma’s Frida: Latinas as transnational bodies in US popular culture" (2007) in Myra Mendible (Ed.), From bananas to buttocks: The Latina in popular film and culture, University of Texas: Austin  

ALICIA P. RODRIGUEZ [Associate Director, Latina/Latino Studies] was presented the "Cathy Acevedo Award for Commitment to Students" at the 29th Annual Latina/o Congratulatory Ceremony on May 10, 2008.

GILBERTO ROSAS [Assistant Professor, Anthropology and Latina/Latino Studies] was awarded a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Chicago's Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture for 2008-2009.

* For a complete listing of accomplishments, visit the Latina/Latino Studies website at www.lls.uiuc.edu
GRADUATES

GRADUATE STUDENTS

Ph.D. Students [with graduate work in Latina/Latino Studies]

Alyssa Garcia
"(Re)covering Women: The State, Morality and Cultural Discourses of Sex Work in Cuba,"
Advisor: Dr. Arlene Torres

Shanshan Lan
"Learning Race and Class: Chinese Americans in Multiracial Bridgeport"
Advisor: Dr. Nancy Abelmann

Isaura Pulido
"Knowledge-the fifth element of hip hop music": Mexican and Puerto Rican youth engagement of hip hop as critically race(ed) education discourse"
Advisor: Dr. James D. Anderson

Gabriel Alejandro Cortez
"Education, Politics, and a Hunger Strike: A social movement's struggle for education in Chicago's Little Village community"
Advisor: Dr. James D. Anderson

Angelica Rivera
"Re-inserting Mexican American Women's Voices Into 1950's Chicago Educational History"
Advisor: Dr. James D. Anderson

Irene Del Rio Gubiola
"Errant Family Ties: Migratory Identities in Hispanic Caribbean and Latina Cultural Productions"
Advisor: Dr. Dana E. Goldman

Brenici Patiño
"Women and Class: Power Dynamics in Contemporary Mexican Literature and Culture"
Advisor: Dr. Rolando Romero

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Individual Plans of Study Majors in Latina/Latino Studies

Xochitl Arcos
Jose Luis Benavides
Christopher Anthony Garibay
Daniel Nuñez
Jaime Olmos
Celina Villanueva

Latina/Latino Studies Minors

Laura Kathleen Ahearn
Elianna S. Barrios
Carlos Caceres, Jr.
Carla M. Cofre
Samuel David Cowin
Ricardo C. Esparza
Alicia Estrada
Abigail Marie Fleming
Hector Omar Hermosillo
Natalie Lira
Juan J. Mojica
Nelly Julieta Montenegro
David Orta

Andres Robledo, Jr.
James Anthony Romero
Celeste L. Salazar
Celena Rochelle Santana
Miguel A. Saucedo
Elizabeth Karla Solis
Janette E. Sturges
Eric Tellez
Anona M. Whitley

Graduated May 2008 unless marked with symbols below:
*graduated December 2007
**graduated August 2008
†graduated with distinction in Individual Plans of Study
Friday, September 5, 2008
4:00-6:00pm
Latina/Latino Studies Program Open House

Wednesday, October 15, 2008
5:00-6:30pm, 192 Lincoln Hall
Rolando Hinojosa-Smith, Jr. Lecture: "Still Loving in the War Years: The Work of Cherríe Moraga" by Cherríe Moraga
Cherríe Moraga is a renowned poet, playwright and essayist of many works since the 1970s, including This Bridge Called My Back: Writings by Radical Women of Color (1981/1983), Loving in the War Years: Lo Que Nunca Pas Por Sus Labios (1983), Watsonville: Some Place Not Here (1996) and Waiting in the Wings: Portrait of a Queer Motherhood (1997). She is a recipient of the National Endowment for the Arts/ Theatre Playwrights’ Fellow and artist-in-residence at Stanford University.

Wednesday, October 29, 2008
4:00-5:30pm, 161 Noyes Laboratory
Lecture: "The Media and Latino Politics: Lessons from the Past for Better Understanding the Present and Future" by Federico Subervi
Federico Subervi is Professor & Director of the Center for the Study of Latino Media and Markets, School of Journalism & Mass Communication, Texas State University.

February 2009
Fourth Biennial Graduate Student Conference

April 2009
Rolando Hinojosa-Smith, Jr. Lecture Series, by Junot Díaz
Junot Díaz is a highly acclaimed writer, 2008 Pulitzer Prize winner for fiction for The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao (2007), author of Drown (1996), and associate professor of creative writing at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

Director: Arlene Torres
Interim Director (2007-2008): Isabel Molina
Associate Director: Alicia P. Rodriguez
Office Manager: Victoria Gonzalez
Designed by: Christian Ortega of ditable
Latina/Latino Studies Program
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
510 E. Chalmers
Champaign, IL 61820

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

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