From the Fields to the Academy:
A Migrant Symposium

Michigan State University
April 15-17, 2011
Dedication

This symposium is dedicated to the hundreds of thousands of familias who have worked the fields around the Great Lakes, migrating to and from Michigan to feed a nation for over a century.

About the symposium

“From the Fields to the Academy: A Migrant Symposium” is the product of close collaboration between Michigan State University Chicano/Latino Studies Program students and faculty. This symposium emerged from the research of Chicano/Latino Studies doctoral student Juan Botello Vasquez, who generously entrusted to CLS his idea of a gathering of scholars and students who have made the journey from the fields to the academy.

Our goals are:

1. To document migrant presences in higher education;
2. To share information that will help strengthen services to migrant students in the academy;
3. To provide students with opportunities to interact with successful university faculty and administrators who share similar backgrounds;
4. To establish an archive of materials—written and oral—of migrant voices for publication and for future research projects.

The Chicano/Latino Studies Program would like to acknowledge the early and consistent support of Professor Eloy Rodriguez and Professor Helena Maria Viramontes of Cornell University, who were unable to attend.
Friday, April 15, 2011

5:30-6:45 Opening Remarks
Sheila Contreras, Associate Professor of English, Director of Chicano/Latino Studies Program, Michigan State University

Welcome
Lou Anna K. Simon, President, Michigan State University

Keynote: Values, Parents and the Public Good
101 N. Kedzie Laboratory
Jaime Chahin, Professor and Dean of the College of Applied Arts, Texas State University

Saturday, April 16, 2011

7:45-8:30 Continental Breakfast (Kellogg Center, Big Ten Room B)

8:30-9:45 “Eres mi lengua”: Child Translators and the Worlds on Their Tongues (Big Ten Room C)
Introduction: Isabel Ayala, Assistant Professor, Sociology and Chicano/Latino Studies, Michigan State University

Chair: Antonia Castañeda, Associate Professor of History, Retired, St. Mary’s University

Student Presenters from Michigan State University
Nancy Contreras, Eleazar Gutierrez, Juana Lopez, Sandra Lopez, Carlos Torres, Maribel Quiroz

10:00-11:15 Testimonios and Legacies of Chicana faculty en la Torre de Marfil/Ivory Tower: Cultural Strangers in Our Own Land (Big Ten Room C)

Chair: Diana Huizar Rivera, Chicano/Latino Studies Bibliographer, MSU Libraries and Chicano/Latino Studies Graduate Program

Andie Lee González, Graduate Student, Master’s in Public Health Program, MSU

Petra Guerra, Assistant Professor Department of Communication, University of Texas-Pan American
Diana I. Ríos, Professor, Department of Communication Sciences and Institute of Puerto Rican and Latino Studies, University of Connecticut

11:30-12:45   Lunch at Brody Complex

1:00-2:15   *Migrant Histories, Migrant Literatures* (Big Ten Room C)

Chair: René Pérez Rosenbaum, Associate Professor, Department of Community, Agriculture and Recreation Resources, MSU

"Children of the Fields: Representations of Work and School in Chicana/o Farm Worker Narratives."
Marcial González, Associate Professor, Department of English, University of California-Berkeley

“From the Fields to the Archives: A Historian on the Trail of Migrant Workers”
Juan Mora-Torres, Associate Professor, Department of History, DePaul University

“Reflections of a Migrant Worker’s Son: History, Memory, and Upward Mobility in the Great Lakes”
Marc Rodriguez, Assistant Professor, Department of History, Concurrent Assistant Professor of Law Notre Dame University

2:30-3:45   *Centering the Migrant Experience in Academia-The Cosecha Voices Project* (Big Ten Room C)

Introduction: Teresa Almanza, Student, Michigan State University

Stephanie Alvarez, Assistant Professor, Department of Modern Languages, University of Texas-Pan American
José Luís Martinez, Migrant College Access Specialist, Region One Educational Service Center

Student presenters: from the University of Texas-Pan American
Erika Salamanca, Norma Pérez, Angel González, Luís Leal, José Rivas, Andy Martinez

4:00-5:15   *Narrating Experiences of Migration and Fieldwork* (Big Ten Room C)

Chair: Jesse Anguiano, Doctoral Student, Chicano/Latino Studies Program, MSU

Chuy Ramirez, Writer
Elva Treviño-Hart, Writer
Tino Villanueva, Writer, Boston University, Department of Romance Studies
5:30-7:00  Dinner at Kellogg Center, Big Ten Room B

7:00-10:00  Noche Cultural (Big Ten Room B)

MSU CAMP Student Dance Group, Isabel Montemayor, Choreographer,

Esmeralda Pérez de López, Chicano/Latino Studies undergraduate coordinator, poetry reading

Isabel Montemayor, Graduate student, Department of Anthropology, MSU and CAMP student advisor, poetry reading.

Karen Rodriguez, undergraduate student, Michigan State University, CAMP

Juan Botello Vasquez, PhD Student, Chicano/Latino Studies Program, Michigan State University

Los Bandits, acoustic music of the migrant experience (and recent tunes)

Sunday, April 17, 2011

7:45-9:00  Continental Breakfast (Big Ten Room B)

9:00-10:15  The Path to College: Resiliency and Tenacity as Cultural Capital (Big Ten Room B)

Esmeralda Pérez de López, Introduction

Chair: Maria Luisa Alaníz, Professor, Interdisciplinary Social Science Department, San José State University

Student Presenters from Michigan State University

Paul Garza, Edwardo Gomez, Rolando Gonzalez, Aleida Martinez, David Trevino, Maribel Quiroz

10:30-11:45  Meta-Privileges of the Migrant Lifestyle (Big Ten Room B)

Chair: Alberto M. Flores, Director, Office of Public Affairs, Michigan Department of Civil Rights

“Debunking Deficit Thinking”
Encarnación Garza, Associate Professor, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, University of Texas-San Antonio

“Everything I needed to know to succeed in academia I learned as a migrant worker”
Raymond V. Padilla, Professor Emeritus, College of Education and Human Development, University of Texas at San Antonio

Noon-1:45  Lunch/Closing Discussion  Brody Complex
About Our Presenters

Maria Luisa Alaníz
Maria is Professor and Chair of the Social Science Department at San Jose State University. She is also Director of Social Science Teacher Education. Maria received a BA, MA and Pupil Personnel Credential from San Jose State University and received an EdS and PhD in Sociology of Education from Stanford University. She conducted research on alcohol outlet density and youth violence in Mexican American communities at the Prevention Research Center in Berkeley from 1991 to 2000. Maria was the Co-Principal Investigator of studies funded by NIH, the California Wellness Foundation, and the California Endowment.

Her numerous articles on alcohol use among Mexican Americans, ethnic and gender specific targeted advertising and drinking patterns among women have been published in national and international scholarly journals in the alcohol field. Maria was raised in a farm worker family of all women in Stockton, California. Her latest research project, based in Stockton, investigates the effect of public policy on personal lives.

Stephanie Alvarez
Stephanie is Co-director of Mexican American Studies and Assistant Professor of Spanish at the University of Texas-Pan American. She is also director of Cosecha Voices a project dedicated to documenting the experiences of migrant students. She is the 2011 recipient of the American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education Outstanding Latina/o Faculty Award and 2009 University of Texas Board of Regents’ Outstanding Teaching Award. Her research interests include Critical Spanish-language pedagogy for the Latin@ student, Latin@ identity (re)constructions, and the use of Spanglish in Latin@ literature, hip-hop, and comedy.

Jesse Anguiano
Jesse was born in Los Angeles, California. He received a BA in Latin American and Latino Studies from the University of California, Santa Cruz. Anguiano attended San Diego State University where he received his MA in Latin American Studies. His academic interests are focused on the LGBT community of Tijuana and its formation. His interdisciplinary up bringing in academia has helped him examine LGBT issues through different academic lenses. He is a second year doctoral student in Chicano Latino Studies and has taught the Introduction to Chicano Latino Studies to undergraduates at MSU. His parents are from Jiquilpan, Michoacán, and is the product of bilingual education and the first person in his family to pursue a higher education.

Antonia Casteñada
Antonia, born in Tejas and raised in Washington, received her BA from Western Washington State College, MA from the University of Washington, and PhD from Stanford University. She held teaching appointments in Chicano Studies and Women’s Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and in the Departments of History, University of Texas at Austin, and St. Mary’s University. Castañeda is the author of numerous articles, including the prize winning Women of Color and the Re-Writing of Western History. Recent works include the anthology, Gender on the Borderlands: The Frontiers Reader (2007) and The Comino Chronicles: A Tale of Tejana Migration, (2010), the latter is based on her current research project.

With Dr. Deena González, Castañeda is co-editor of the Chicana Matters Series, University of Texas Press. She serves on the boards of the Recovering the U.S. Hispanic Literary Heritage Project and the Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center; and volunteers at the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center. She is a founding member of MALCS, Castañeda received the NACCS Scholar of the Year award in 2007. Now an independent scholar, she retired from university teaching in June, 2007.

Jaime Chahin
Jaime is Dean and Professor of the College of Applied Arts at Texas State University San Marcos. His principal teaching and research interests involve educational, social, and economic policy issues that impact Latino/a populations in America. His most recent articles and edited books are: Latino Youth Resilience: Building Capacity in Schools; Handbook of U.S. Latino Psychology, Engaged Scholarship in Hispanic Serving Institutions; Latina Immigrant Transnational Mothers: The Voices of Leaders; Digital Divide: Impact on Hispanic-Owned Business; Educational and Occupational Aspirations of Colonia Children; Las Colonias, Entre dos Mundos; and Paternal Values of Latino Fathers.

He was executive producer of two documentaries, Mexican American Legislative Caucus: The Texas Struggle for Equality and Opportunity, a documentary film that traces the story of Tejanos and their efforts to secure their civil rights and expand their social and economic opportunities through the legislative process (2007). The Forgotten Americans, a film about colonias that premiered on PBS (2001) and received a first-place Award from the National Council of Families. In addition, Dr. Chahin received the “Ohtli Award” from the Secretary of Exterior Relations of Mexico. Dr. Chahin received his PhD in Education Administration and MSW in Administration and Policy from the University of Michigan. He received his BA from Texas A&I and has completed postdoctoral work at Harvard (1983) and Salsburg Institute
Sheila Marie Contreras

Sheila received her PhD in English from the University of Texas at Austin. She is Associate Professor of English at Michigan State University and Director of the Chicano Latino Studies Program, which includes the second PhD program in Chicana/o Studies in the country.


Alberto Flores

Alberto serves as the Community Relations Division Director for the Michigan Department of Civil Rights. He has coordinated several special project initiatives including the Expanded Community and Multi-cultural Liaisons Initiatives. These initiatives enhance the department's service delivery and communication to communities and specific cultural groups, (African American, American Indian, Arab American, Asian American, and Latino American) and the disability, older American, and youth populations. Alberto has worked more than twenty years in the social services and civil rights arena to better the quality of life for those in need. He is a graduate of Saginaw Valley State University and has completed graduate work at the University of Michigan - Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies in the area of public administration.

Encarnación Garza, Jr.

Encarnación is an Associate Professor at the University of Texas at San Antonio in the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies. His major emphasis in teaching is the preparation of future school principals and superintendents that will serve primarily minority children. Dr. Garza's research is focused on the preparation of school leaders who serve in schools with predominantly minority student populations. His experiences as a K-12 educator (teacher, counselor, principal, and superintendent) provide him with heuristic knowledge that is critical to his research. As a scholar-practitioner whose scholarship employs a critical theory perspective, his research focuses on three themes: 1) the study of minority student success, 2) the preparation of principals as leaders for social justice, and 3) the exploration of school district/university partnerships with respect to preparing principals as social justice advocates. As lead faculty for the partnership with a local school district, Dr. Garza has been engaged in a longitudinal study of principalship preparation using a closed cohort model. Dr. Garza is active in the international study of leadership as a researcher and participant in the International Successful School Principals Project (ISSPP). Encarnación has conducted research focused on success stories of migrant students using a life history approach to examine in-depth the experiences of successful migrant farm worker children. This study resulted in the publication of his book, *Resiliency and Success: Migrant Children in the U. S.* (2004, Paradigm Publishers) co-authored with Professors Pedro Reyes and Enrique Trueba.

Andie Lee González

Andie Lee was born and raised in Palmview, Texas. Her parents’, Arturo and Rebecca González Jr., farm work experiences have had a incredible impact on who she is today. A current student in the Masters in Public Health Program at Michigan State University with the College of Human Medicine. She received her bachelor’s degree in Dietetics at Michigan State University. She is a graduate assistant for Michigan State University Migrant Student Services, College Assistant Migrant Program (CAMP). Her experience includes mentoring and advising first-year CAMP students, a passion in nutrition education, outreach, health promotion, and working within the migrant seasonal farmworker communities. She has worked in programs such as Health Corps-Nuestra Clinica Del Valle, Project Puente Coordinator at Northwest Michigan Health Services Inc. Migrant Clinic, and outreach intern at Allen Neighborhood Center. She is grateful for the support of her family, CAMP Program, and all those who have inspired and impacted her through her time at Michigan State University.

Marcial González

Marcial was born in Fresno, California, the son of Mexican farm workers and the fifth of seven children. He worked as a farm laborer in the San Joaquin Valley until the age of thirty-six. He also worked for ten years as a political activist, helping to organize an independent farm workers union in the 1980s. At the age of thirty-seven, he began taking college courses at a junior college and ten years later received his PhD from Stanford University. González is currently Associate Professor of English at the University of California, Berkeley, and the author of *Chicano Novels and the Politics of Form: Race, Class, and Reification* (2009).

Petra Guerra

Petra teaches at the Department of Communication at the University of Texas-Pan American. Her classes at the undergraduate level include Public Relations, Media Law and Ethics, Mass media Campaigns, Mass Communication and Society, and Mass Communication
Theory. Graduate classes include Mass Communication Campaigns, Public Relations, and Mass Communication Theory.

Petra’s research includes adolescents, media and education; women’s reproductive rights; gender inequality in the media; telenovelas; and AIDS prevention. Presently Petra is Vice Head of Minorities and Communication, division of AEJMC. She is an active member of Public Relations Society of America, Latin America Studies Association, and is a member of Academic Advisory Board Member of Annual Editions: Mass Media and a Judge for the Stevie Awards. Membership also include the Dean designated Mexican American Studies Task Force. Her newest co-authored work includes *The Telenovela Alborada: Constructions of Mother in an Internationally Successful Spanish-Language Soap Opera* is due out summer 2011. And *Fuego en la Sangre fires risky: A Critic of a Top-Rated Telenovela and its Sexual Content* (in press).

**Los Banditos de Michigan**

Los Banditos de Michigan have been performing since 1991. Members include René Meave, guitar/vocals, Guillermo Martinez, accordions/vocals, Esteban (Steve) Ortiz, drums/vocals and Ernesto (Ernie) Ortiz, bass guitar and vocals. Their music reflects the richness of Tex-Mex music by combining rhythm and blues, gospel, country, rock, norteño, and Tejano music. In 1999, then Michigan governor John Engler, as well as the Hispanic Caucus of the State of Michigan, honored René and Guillermo with a special tribute for their outstanding contribution to Tex-Mex music in Michigan. A documentary on the band entitled, “More than a Tex-Mex Band” was released in 2005. Rene and Guillermo are former migrant workers and continue to serve and advocate for migrant populations in Michigan. Their migrant worker story is told in the song and verse of "En Michigan".

**Juan Mora-Torres**

Juan is an Associate Professor of Latin American History at DePaul University. He was born in Tlalpujahua, Michoacan (Mexico) and raised in San Jose, California. A former Teamster, he has worked in the agricultural fields, canneries, and as an adult education instructor. Juan has a long history of community activism, mainly working with organizations committed to the defense of the undocumented workers.

**Raymond V. Padilla**

With an undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan and graduate degrees (MA and PhD) from the University of California at Berkeley, Raymond is Professor Emeritus in the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies at the University of Texas at San Antonio. Professor Padilla is the co-founder and former director of the Hispanic Research Center at Arizona State University. Through his research and teaching he has contributed to the fields of bilingual education, Chicana/o Studies, higher education, and qualitative research methods. Raymond is the developer of the Expertise Model of Student Success (EMSS), which uses qualitative research methods to construct empirical models of student success. He also developed HyperQual and SuperHyperQual software for the management and analysis of qualitative data. The results of his research have been presented at major national and international conferences and applied at various colleges and universities. His publications have appeared in numerous books, journals, and electronic media. His most recent book is *Student Success Modeling: Elementary School to College*.

**Esmeralda Pérez de López**

Esmeralda is a master’s student at Saginaw Valley State University where she is completing her thesis: “Motives for Latino Men Who Watch Telenovelas,” which is an audience study. Esmeralda holds two specializations from MSU, one in Chicano/Latino Studies and another in Latin American and Caribbean Studies. Esmeralda attended MSU where she earned her BA in Spanish and another in History. Esmeralda is the Undergraduate Coordinator for the Chicano/Latino Studies Program.

**Chuy Ramirez**

Chuy is an attorney who practices law in McAllen, Texas and is a partner in the firm Ramirez & Guerrero, LLP. He is currently corporate legal counsel for Lone Star National Bank, a Texas national bank with branches throughout South Texas and more recently in San Antonio. He grew up in the Rio Grande Valley and is no stranger to the strawberry fields, to which he traveled over the years with his family and thousands of families from South Texas. Ramirez attended Pan American University at Edinburg, Texas and is a graduate of the University of Texas School of Law. At the law school, he served as Articles Editor for the International Law Journal and published a note titled, *Altering the Policy of Neglect of Undocumented Immigration from South of the Border*, Vol. 18 in 1983. Strawberry Fields is his first fictional work. Ramirez lives in Texas with is wife of 39 years Aida, who is a retired public school teacher.

**Diana Ríos**

Diana is an Associate Professor of Communication Sciences and of the Institute of Puerto Rican and Latino Studies at the University of Connecticut. She is currently the interim director of the Institute of Puerto Rican and Latino Studies, where she was one of the founding faculty members. Her scholarship and teaching interests include mass media, popular culture, news, ethnicity/race and culture, Chican@-Latin@ Studies, women’s studies, gender studies. She is an editor for *Soap Operas and Telenovelas* (2011) a book in press.
with Peter Lang Publishing. Her family has lived in the southwestern states, mostly concentrated in California and Texas. Her formative years were in the San Francisco East Bay in the Oakland and Berkeley areas. Her parents Herminio C. Ríos and Rosa Elena Ríos were in the Chicano movement, mostly active in Tucson, Arizona and the East Bay. Family outings in the 1960s and 1970s included picketing Safeway for selling scab grapes.

**Diana Huizar Rivera**

Diana is the Chicana/o and Latina/o Studies bibliographer and the Cesar E. Chavez Collection librarian at the Michigan State University Libraries. She is a graduate of Michigan State University and the University of Michigan. Diana has been a librarian for 29 years and is in her third year as a PhD student in the Chicano/Latino Studies Program at MSU. Her area of research is Chicana/os in the mystery novel. She was a Smithsonian Institution Latino Museum Studies Program fellow in 2009.

She was born in San Antonio Texas, but has been a Michicana residing in Bay County and the East Lansing area for over 45 years. Her family migrated from San Antonio in the summer of 1963 and settled in Pinconning, Michigan where the family continued to work the fields.

**Marc Rodriguez**

Born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Marc works within the fields of Mexican American and American legal history focused on the relationship between migration, ethnicity, youth politics, state reform, and labor after 1945. He is an assistant professor in the Department of History at the University of Notre Dame, and has also taught at Princeton University where he was assistant professor and Executive Secretary of the Shelby Cullom Davis Center for Historical Studies. Marc holds a PhD in history from Northwestern University (2000) and a JD from the University of Wisconsin Law School (2001). He has just published, *The Tejano Diaspora: Mexican Americanism and Ethnic Politics in Texas and Wisconsin* (University of North Carolina Press).

**Rene Rosenbaum**

Rene, PhD economics, 1985, Notre Dame, is an Associate Professor in community and economic development in the Department of Community Agriculture, Recreation and Resource Studies (CARRS). Dr. Rosenbaum’s research and outreach interests are in fields of community economic development, farm labor markets, farm worker health and early childhood education studies, and Latino and other minority economic issues. He currently teaches ESA 470: The Theory and Practice of Community and Economic Development. He also does consulting work with a number of federal agencies including the Health Resources and Service Administration, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid, and the Office of Head Start.

**Elva Treviño-Hart**

Elva is a computer professional with the Control Data Corporation as well as an author. She earned her BA at the University of Texas at Austin in Theoretical Mathematics and her MS from Stanford University in Computer Science/Computer Engineering. She has written numerous books including *Barefoot Heart: Stories of a Migrant Child*, which won the American Book Award, the American Library Association’s Alex Award, and the Violet Crown. Other books include *Corazón descalzo, historias de una niña migratoria*, a Spanish translation of *Barefoot Heart*, *Simpáticas: San Miguel Stories*, a collection of short stories set in Mexico

**Juan Vasquez**

Juan was born in Austin, Texas, and raised in the migrant fields of Central and West Texas, in Traverse City, and Benton Harbor, Michigan, and in Perrysburg, Ohio (from 'babyhood' to senior year in college). He is a second-year doctoral student in Chicano/Latino Studies. Juan has worked at MSU in Student Support Services, Communication Arts, and Migrant Student Services. A former graduate assistant for the Chicano/Latino Studies Program, he is currently a research assistant at the Julian Samora Research Institute.

This symposium is an original idea from Juan during a class assignment with Maxine Baca Zinn, to collect stories of professors in the academy who were migrants, and to compile them for an anthology for publication. He contacted professors and professionals from throughout the country with the idea of coming together, and with support of Sheila Contreras, Director of Chicano/Latino Studies, received approval for funding and organized a planning committee to work this symposium a reality.

**Tino Villanueva**

Tino is the author of six books of poetry, among them *Shaking Off the Dark* (1984); *Crónica de mis años poesía* (1987); *Chronicle of My Worst Years* (1994); *Scene from the Movie GIANT* (1993), which won a 1994 American Book Award; and *Primera causa/First Cause* (1999), a chapbook on memory and writing. Tino has been anthologized in *An Ear to the Ground: An Anthology of Contemporary American Poetry* (University of Georgia Press, 1989), *Poetas sin fronteras* (Madrid: Editorial Verbum, 2000), and most recently in *The Norton Anthology of Latino Literature* (2011). He has taught creative writing at the University of Texas at Austin, The College of William & Mary, and Bowdoin College. His art work has appeared on the covers and pages of national and international journals, such as *Necos*, *Green Mountains Review*, *TriQuarterly*, *Parnassus*, and *MELUS*. He teaches in the Department of Romance Studies at Boston University.
# Student Presenters

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<th>Michigan State University</th>
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<td><strong>Nancy Contreras</strong></td>
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Symposium Sponsors

The Chicano/Latino Studies Program would like to thank our generous sponsors for their support:

- Office for Inclusion and Intercultural Initiatives
- College of Social Science
- College of Agriculture and Natural Resources
- University Outreach and Engagement
- Office of Cultural and Academic Transitions (OCAT)
- Migrant Student Services
- Undergraduate Education, Office of the Provost
- Residential and Hospitality Services
- Women’s Resource Center

About the Cover Photograph

Pictured are the families of Jesus and Paula Medina and Palamon Medina, who were among those who made the trek north to Michigan as migrant workers. Like other migrants, they found refuge from the fields in the auto industry, which provided stability for their families. Leonila Antonia Medina (Guerrero) (arms on hips), daughter of Jesus and Paula Medina, began working in the fields as a very young child and had to halt her childhood education when she reached the eighth grade. She later went on to complete high school and was one of the first Mexican American women in Michigan to attend college. Among those featured in this photo, Guillermo and Simon Medina (in sunglasses) were able to attend college, and of Leonila Medina’s five children, three have received their Bachelor’s degree from various Michigan universities. Two of her many grandchildren, including Kristie Guerrero-Taylor, a teacher at Eastern High School in Lansing, have received their Bachelor’s degrees and are currently educators in the Lansing and Jackson school districts in Michigan. The photo also features Leonila Medina’s brothers and sisters who also worked in the fields to provide opportunities for many of their own children and grandchildren to pursue education. (Photo courtesy of Kristie Guerrero-Taylor)