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Noticias

We have much good news to share with you! First, I want to thank the students who, under the guidance of Esmeralda Pérez de López, completed the CLS mural on the east wall of the meeting room: Luis Zarco, Adolfo Grimaldo, Gisela Leija, Maribel Quiroz, Karen Rodríguez, Sosso Tendeng, Liz Vala, Rosa López, Adriana Abunds, Jesse Anguiano, and Yereth Fernández. Please feel free to drop by the office, say “hi” and have a look. As always, the room is available for study, meetings and other forms of student engagement.

I’d also like to welcome two new faculty members to CLS: Higinio Domínguez from Teacher Education and Diego Rivera from the College of Music Jazz Studies Program. These two new faculty members bring new and diverse talents to the Chicano/Latino Studies Program.

You can read inside about our very successful From the Fields to the Academy: A Migrant Symposium, held in April 2011. The groundbreaking event, out of which have developed several initiatives related to teaching, publishing and future symposia. Videos of the event will be available soon.

As a result of the symposium, CLS was graced with its first visiting scholar in residence. Dr. Diana Ríos of the University of Connecticut presented at the symposium and, based upon her positive experiences while at MSU, decided to spend her sabbatical with us! Throughout Fall 2011, Dr. Ríos, former Director of the Center for Puerto Rican and Latino Studies at the University of Connecticut, was in the office donating her time and expertise to mentoring students and assisting with projects related to our symposium. ¡Un mil de gracias Profesora Ríos! Also inside are updates on the Chicano/Latino Studies Scholars Program, and the community education project, Tech en la Casa. The project engages CLS and other students to teach Spanish-speaking parents basic computer skills at Cristo Rey Community Center.

Finally, thank you to the wonderful CLS office staff who have made this semester so successful: Michael McCue, Administrative Assistant, Esmeralda Pérez de López, Undergraduate Coordinator, Maribel Quiroz and Anita González, undergraduate students, and Gisela Leija, our intern. I am inspired daily by this fantastic team.

We are immensely proud of our work in Chicano/Latino Studies. Please contact us if you wish to become involved. In the meantime, enjoy our good news and join us in looking forward to a busy and bright Spring 2012.

Psychology senior and Chicano/Latino Studies Specialization student Gisela Leija brought her many talents to the CLS office this past fall.

Already active in the Chicano/Latino Studies Scholars program, Gisela was a student leader in Tech en la Casa. She also took on many important projects that you may have seen. She designed an informational poster about the Chicano/Latino Studies Program for an annual retreat of the College of Social Science chairs and directors.

In addition, she designed and executed a new and more efficient way to share information with CLS Specialization and doctoral students via consolidated emails.

Dedicated to community service, Gisela was active in the Delta Tau Lambda sorority taking on leadership roles.

CLS intern Gisela Leija brings talents to office
The class will examine the historical presence of Chicanos/Latinos in the United States.

Introduction to Chicano/Latino Studies class offered

CLS now offers Introduction to Chicano/Latino Studies course. SSC 290 is offered in both Fall and Spring semesters. The class will examine the historical presence of Chicanos/Latinos in the United States. It is an interdisciplinary course that will introduce students to scholarship from art, history, anthropology, literature, sociology, and psychology. The class will also discuss issues of race, class, gender, and sexuality within US Chicano/Latino history and literature. Latino popular culture, Chicano murals, music, the US-Mexican border, and the migrant experience, will be the vehicle with which to study course concepts in this class. In addition to academic work, students will be required to participate in a civic service engagement experience. The civic engagement, which will occur in the greater-Lansing area, will provide students with a real-world opportunity to gain an understanding of the current issues facing the Latino community. The civic engagement will also be a vehicle to develop leadership skills.

Rosenbaum honored with Distinguished Alumnus Award

CLS faculty member René Rosenbaum was selected for the University Distinguished Alumnus Award at St. Edward’s University in Austin, Texas. The award is presented each year to St. Edward’s University graduates whose contributions exemplify the university’s Holy Cross values and mission. The award cited his extensive research in the areas of community and economic development and his lifelong commitment to social justice as reasons for the award. Rosenbaum is currently an associate professor in the Department of Community Agriculture, Recreation and Resource Studies. He also serves as chair of the Chicano/Latino Studies Program’s Faculty Advisory Committee. He received his Ph.D. in economics from Notre Dame University and taught at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater and Radford University before he joined Michigan State University in 1990.

Alumni profile: Juan Flores

CLS alumnus Juan Flores’ ties to MSU run deep. Not only did he earn multiple degrees here, Juan also works at MSU. He earned his undergraduate degree in Criminal Justice along with a specialization in Chicano/Latino Studies in 2005. Juan began graduate studies at MSU, earning a Master’s degree in clinical social work in 2008. Juan is currently an area coordinator in the Office of Cultural and Academic Transitions (OCAT). Juan keeps busy at the OCAT office where he serves as the advisor to Culturas de las Razas Unidas (CRU), the Michigan State University Council of Racial and Ethnic Studies (CORES) Latino Organization, as well as being the coordinator for the Maximizing Academic Growth in College (MAGIC) transitional summer program for admitted incoming first-year students. Juan’s duties also include serving as a coordinator for Foundations of College Undergraduate Success (FOCUS) Conference, and serving as a coordinator of the annual Día de la Mujer Conference (DDLM). Juan’s interactions with MSU’s students are not limited to these organizations. Juan also hires, trains and supervises Intercultural Aides who live in MSU’s residence halls. Cultural Aides play a vital role in helping their fellow students make the best of their undergraduate experience.

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This past spring, Michigan State University served as the location for a uniquely groundbreaking symposium.

In April, the Chicano/Latino Studies Program hosted “From the Fields to the Academy: A Migrant Symposium” at MSU’s Kellogg Center. The symposium brought together academics who were former migrant workers. In her opening remarks, MSU’s president LouAnna K. Simon noted that “the Chicano/Latino Studies Program is so important to the university and to this conversation.”

The symposium emerged from the research of Chicano/Latino Studies graduate student Juan Botello Vásquez, 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. Scholars from across the country attended and presented at the symposium.

Dr. Encarnación Garza, of the University of Texas-San Antonio, opened the conference with the keynote address, “Debunking Deficit Thinking” in which he challenged the idea of deficit thinking amongst educators who serve migrant communities. Rejecting the “pobrecito” narrative, Garza called upon the audience to recognize the significant life skills gained by students from farmworking families that migrate, skills that can be directly linked to academic success. This idea was taken up again at the end of the conference during Prof. Emeritus Raymond V. Padrón’s talk “Everything I needed to know to succeed in academia I learned as a migrant worker.”

Acclaimed poet Tino Villanueva, and well-known writers Elva Treviño Hart and Chuy Ramirez each spoke about how their works were narratives of the migrant and farmwork experiences.

Dr. Antonia Castañeda retired from St. Mary’s University in San Antonio, Texas, chaired a panel titled “Eres mi lengua: Child translators and the Worlds on Their Tongues.” MSU students Nancy Contreras, Eleazar Gutierrez, Juana Lopez, Sandra Lopez, Carlos Torres, and Maribel Quiróz shared their experiences of translating from Spanish to English for their parents and families. Student Juana López discussed translating to and from Mixteco and Spanish for her Mixteco-speaking family while living in Mexico. When they moved to the US, Juana had to learn English and began translating across three languages for her family and community.

The symposium also addressed the experiences of Chicanas in the academy. Session chair, MSU Libraries bibliographer and CLS graduate student Diana Huizar Rivera, Andie Lee Gonzalez, Dr. Petra Guerra, Assoc. Director of Latino Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Dr. Diana Ríos, from the University of Connecticut, discussed what it is like to be Chicana working in higher education. CLS faculty member Dr. René Pérez Rosenbaum chaired “Migrant Histories, Migrant Literature.” This session, featured Dr. Juan Mora-Torres of DePaul University, and Dr. Marc Rodríguez, from the University of Notre Dame.

Students from the University of Texas-Pan American, led by Dr. Stephanie Alvarez and José Luis Martinez presented their work in “The Cosecha Voices Project”. Cosecha Voices offers migrant students the opportunity to improve writing/communication skills, while also documenting the migrant histories of their families. Students on the panel were Erika Salinas, Norma Pérez, Ángel González, Luis Leal, José Rivas, and Andy Martínez.

Dr. María Luisa Alanís, San José State University, chaired the panel “The Path to College: Resiliency and Tenacity as Cultural Capital” which featured MSU students Paul Garza, Edwarro Gomez, Rolando Gonzalez, Aleida Martinez, David Treviño, and Maribel Quiróz. The students shared stories of their journey from migrant farm worker to college student at a Big Ten university. Students shared both the problems they encountered along the way and how the migrant experience has made them better college students.

The final session of the symposium featured Texas State University-San Marcos Dean of Applied Arts Jaime Chávez relaying the significance of family in student academic success, with an emphasis on the supportive role that migrant families play in their children’s education.

“The Chicano/ Latino Studies Program is so important to the university and so important to this conversation...” - LouAnna K. Simon
From the Fields to the Academy: A Migrant Symposium
Nurturing research, transforming perception

Special thanks to Tom Rico, from the Peace Education Center of Greater Lansing, for permission to use these images.
Students in the Spring 2011 SSC 290: Introduction to Chicano/Latino Studies had the rare opportunity to meet and hear from two leading Chicano writers this spring.

Elva Treviño Hart, author of Barefoot Heart: Stories of a Migrant Child, spoke to students about her book. Elva was born in south Texas to immigrant parents. As a child she traveled with her parents from a small, segregated Texas town to Minnesota each year. Her book is autobiographical account of her life growing up in a migrant farmworker community. In it, Elva shares with the reader the obstacles that migrant workers must overcome to achieve in education. After earning her BA she earned a MS in computer science/engineering from Stanford University.

Chicano poet Tino Villanueva joined Elva in speaking with the class. Tino is the author of six books of poetry including the 1994 American Book Award winner Scene from the Movie Giant. Tino currently teaches at Boston University in the Department of Romance Studies.

Diana Rios, Associate Professor of Communication Sciences at the University of Connecticut, spent her Fall 2011 sabbatical at the CLS Program.

She is the former director of the Institute of Puerto Rican and Latino Studies at UConn, where she was one of the founding faculty members. Her scholarship and teaching interests include mass media, popular culture, news, ethnicity/race and culture, Chicano@-Latino@ Studies, women's studies, and gender studies. She is an editor for Soap Operas and Telenovelas, a book in press with Peter Lang Publishing.

Her family lived in the southwest, mostly in California and Texas. Her formative years were in the San Francisco East Bay area, and Oakland and Berkeley. Her parents Herminio C. Rios and Rosa Elena Rios were in the Chicano movement in Tucson, Arizona and the East Bay. Family outings in the 1960s and 1970s included picketing Safeway for selling scab grapes.

CLS students are assisting in a bilingual computer course to help improve communication between parents/guardians, middle school and high school students, and the school at Cristo Rey Community Center in Lansing.

The goal of the program is to expose Spanish-speaking parent/guardians to computer skills. The program, inspired by a similar program in a Boston school that was featured in the article Opening the Digital Doors, gives CLS students the opportunity to mentor middle school and high school students while also assisting with computer instruction.

The technology project, sponsored by the Cristo Rey Community Center, is funded by a grant from the Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters Resource Sharing Program. Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters is a religious community of women dedicated to fostering justice, standing in solidarity with the poor and promoting the development of leaders. Founded in 1922, the members of the Victory Noll community minister to those in need in 11 states.
The Chicano/Latino Studies Scholars continue their impressive work. They presented at the 2011 AL-SAME conference at Central Michigan University, presented at the Cesar Chavez Leadership Conference at MSU, and at “From the Fields to the Academy: A Migrant Symposium,” where they worked with Antonia Castaneda (retired University of Texas-San Antonio) and Maria Alaniz (San Jose State University) as panelists. The CLSSP Students also led volunteer efforts for community members and community organizations.

The Chicano/Latino Studies Scholars Program is dedicated to connecting students with resources and faculty who can partner with them to achieve success. CLSSP students work one-on-one with a faculty mentor, receive a stipend, go on academically-enriching trips and engagement experiences, and attend workshops to learn about research. Scholars have participated in Tech en la Casa and have worked with the Latino Clubs in the Lansing high schools.

Our Spring 2012 Scholars are: Teresa Jazmin Almanza, Maribel Quiroz, Rosa Lopez, Adolfo Grimoldo, Sandra Lopez, Tonal Simmons, Pedro Tovar, and Nancy Contreras. Look for CLSSP on Facebook and Twitter.

Chicano/Latino Books Removed from Tucson Classrooms

The Tucson Unified School District has dismantled its Mexican American Studies programs and confiscated all books and materials related to the MAS curriculum. The school board says this is in compliance with a state law prohibiting classes that are “designed primarily for one ethnic group or promote resentment toward a race or class of people.” No other ethnic studies program has been targeted, but the banned authors are a diverse group.

Among the banned authors is Coeur d’Alene/Spokane writer Sherman Alexie, who recently wrote the following: “Let’s get one thing out of the way: Mexican immigration is an oxymoron. Mexicans are indigenous. So, in a strange way, I’m pleased that the racist folks of Arizona have officially announced their anti-immigration laws are anti-Indian. I’m also strangely pleased that the folks of Arizona have officially announced their fear of an educated underclass. You give those brown kids some books about brown folks and what happens? Those brown kids change the world.” The Progressive (http://progressive.org/sherman-alexie).

CLS PhD student awarded University Enrichment Fellowship

Incoming Chicano/Latino Studies PhD student Sam Saldivar III was recently awarded a University Enrichment Fellowship. This prestigious fellowship is awarded to new doctoral students who have demonstrated academic excellence, have a commitment to research goals in their field, show evidence of leadership potential, and contribute to a diverse educational community.

Sam, from Weslaco, Texas, earned a BA and an MA, both in English, from Ohio State University. Sam’s research interest are in narrative theory, Latino children’s literature, Mexican cinema, and Chicano/Latino literature. Because of his interests, Sam plans to major in English as well as Chicano/Latino Studies.

In addition to his academic work, Sam taught high school English at San Benito Veterans Memorial Academy in San Benito, Texas. At Ohio State Sam was a Graduate Teaching Instructor. He was also named a Latino and Latin American Space for Enrichment and Research Scholar-in-Residence and Mentor.

**Director Sheila M. Contreras** chaired the Modern Language Association Division on Chicana and Chicanx Literature at the 2011 MLA conference in Los Angeles, and she was elected to a 3-year term as Delegate to the MLA Assembly representing Ethnic Studies beginning in 2012. She also published the online essay, “Emergent Readings of the Post-Conquest: Indigeneity and Mestizaje in the Texas Borderlands” in *Nakum*, available at www.indigenouscultures.org/nakum.

**Kristine Byron** recently presented a paper titled “Qué lejos estoy del suelo donde he nacido: Music, History, and the San Patricios in the 21st Century” at **Faculty, Student, and Alumni News**

**Los Breves del Momento**

**Jeff Bale** was awarded a Lilly Teaching Fellowship, sponsored by Faculty & Organizational Development, for “Language and Cultural Competencies as Resources for World Language Teacher Education.” Bale also spoke at the CLACS Seminar on “Language Rights as Immigrant Rights in the United States.” Jeff Bale


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**Kristine Byron** recently presented a paper titled “Qué lejos estoy del suelo donde he nacido: Music, History, and the San Patricios in the 21st Century at the American Conference for Irish Studies held at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

**Graduate Students**

Jesse Anguiano and José Villarreal were awarded CLS fellowships for the Fall 2010 and Spring 2011. Graduate students awarded fellowships for Fall 2010 were: José Villarreal, Jesse Anguiano, Diana Rivera, and Juan Vasquez. Jesse Anguiano presented “Gay Raids: The fueling of a social movement on the Mexico-US border” at the Binational Conference on Border Issues held December 1, 2011 at San Diego City College.

**Alumni**

Undergraduate coordinator Esmeralda Perez de Lopez had a one-person show of her paintings at Ohio State University this past fall. Her work features Chicano/Latino themes.

**MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY**

**Chicano/Latino Studies Program**

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**Chicano/Latino Studies is no on Twitter! Follow us at CLS@MSU.**

**We’re also on Facebook. Find us at Chicano/Latino Studies at Michigan State University**

**The Chicano/Latino Studies program presents a series of Talleres this semester. CLS doctoral students will present their research at the Talleres. Jesse Anguiano will present Feb. 15. José Villarreal presents March 14, Sam Saldnor presents March 21 and Juan Vasquez presents March 28. Diana Rivera April 11. All Talleres take place at the CLS office: 200 S. Kedzie Hall. CLS faculty will also present at the Talleres during the semester. Anthropology faculty member Linda Hunt presents on April 4 and Sociology faculty member Isabel Ayala presents April 18. See our website for more details.**

The School of Human Resources and Labor Relations is sponsoring a brown bag on Feb. 24 “The Work of Race: African American and African Indian Farmers, Farm Laborers, and Indentured Servants in the Old Northwest.” Talks are held from 12:15 to 1:30 pm at the MSU Museum Auditorium.

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