



LARES Newsletter

Cause for Celebration and a Fond Farewell to One of Our Leaders

by Hugo Teruel

We have many things to celebrate this year! The first is the signing of the Illinois Dream Act into law by Governor Quinn on Monday, August 1, 2011 at Benito Juarez High School. The law creates a commission and a “Dream Fund” that would provide scholarships to students who have the following: at least one immigrant parent, attended school in Illinois for three years, and graduated from high school or received a GED in Illinois. The law provides for the Illinois Student Assistance Commission to establish a new commission whose major responsibility will be to raise funds for scholarships. An important stipulation of the law is that only private funds be used and no public funds. In addition to establishing the scholarship, the law requires implementation of a training program for college and high school counselors, as well as admissions and financial aid officers of public institutions of higher education. Lastly, the law makes available college savings programs such as Bright Start and Bright Directions to these students. However, an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) would be required to open an account. For current and up to date information regarding the formation of the commission, the status of the scholarship and more, visit the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR) website at <http://icirr.org/en/issue/illinois-dream-act>.

Another cause for celebration is the increase in enrollment of Latino students at UIC. In the fall of 2009 Latinos were at 3,751 (13.7%) of the total UIC student population compared to the previous year at 3,417 (13.0%). In the fall of 2010 the number went up to 4,273 (15.6%) and this fall 2011 our numbers increased again to 4,597 (16.7%). I want to thank our staff, students, and alum as well who have had an impact on the increase of Latino student enrollment. This increase pushes us closer to our goal of helping UIC become a Hispanic Serving Institution.



Dr. Leonard G. Ramirez

On a final note, I would like to acknowledge the retirement of Dr. Leonard G. Ramirez from UIC and the LARES program after many years of devotion to Latinos and higher education. Dr. Ramirez is one of a rare breed and a pillar not only to Latinos in higher education but to all underrepresented students. He spent many years leading the battle for causes dear to our hearts not only at UIC but statewide. Although he has retired he remains active in the policy arena through the Illinois Latino Council on Higher Education and is teaching at UIC and Northeastern Illinois University. Dr. Ramirez is a leader who will be sorely missed.

Hugo Teruel
Interim Director
LARES Program

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Meet the New LARES Counselor

Salutations to all the readers! I'm Anthony A. De Jesús and I was born and raised in the "projects" of Chicago. My parents are of Puerto Rican descent. I graduated from UIC in May 2010, with a double major in Psychology and Latin American and Latino Studies. I was the first in my family to graduate from college. After graduation, I became an HIV Prevention Counselor in the Puerto Rican community. I joined the LARES Program in April 2011 as a Recruitment and Admissions Counselor. I advise students majoring in the social sciences and also students who are undeclared. As an undergraduate, I dedicated most of my time to the Puerto Rican community by participating in a variety of volunteer activities. I will help all my students with their academic and personal struggles so they may continue to succeed and reach their full potential. My philosophy for life and for students is not complicated: we are who we choose to be so we must choose to be great so that great things will come to us.



Anthony A. De Jesús



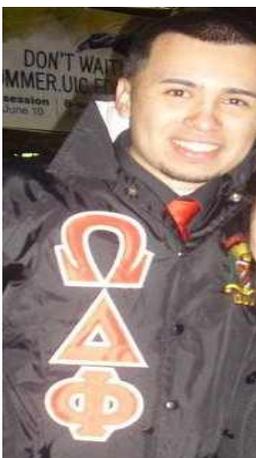
College Life: Working Hard All While Having Fun

by Melissa Valdez

Easily accessible from downtown Chicago and rated as a prestigious research institution, the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) is famous for all it has to offer. My name is Melissa Valdez and I'm in my third year at UIC majoring in Elementary Education. I have worked hard to be part of the Dean's List throughout my years at UIC. Staying up late studying, commuting early to meet with teaching assistants, and visiting the LARES office are some of my day to day activities that I do to succeed as a student. The LARES Program has truly become a second home to me because I know that I can count with my counselor to help me with any situation I may have. I have formed a strong bond with my counselor, Diana Soriano. She has helped me in finding and applying to specific scholarships and continues to inform me about other on and off-campus events and opportunities.

Even though I'm dedicated to my studies, I do not limit myself only to school work. The UIC campus is not only in a great location, but the campus itself is full of activities and events. I have taken advantage of the unlimited access to the recreation center by joining a volleyball team and swimming whenever I have a chance. UIC also offers a fair share of events such as craft days, ice cream socials, and Friday Night Live that serve as a way to meet new people. Going to nearby restaurants or skating at Millenium Park are other fun activities that are available to students by using their CTA Bus Pass, which is free to all full-time students. As a student, I have taken advantage of the resources that are available to me and have also formed positive relationships with my peers, faculty, classmates, and other members of the university. These relationships have enriched my experience and opened my eyes to a new world, which have enabled me to become academically successful all while making the best of my college experience.

New Multi-Cultural Fraternity on Campus!



Angel Sida

Omega Delta Phi Fraternity, Inc was founded at UIC in the spring of 2011 when an idea developed in the minds of seven men with a distinct vision to make a difference. We were not satisfied with the fraternal organizations on campus and we took the initiative of introducing a new face to Greek Life. Our first big milestone was establishing an official interest group known as 'Men of Vision.'

With our mission in mind, our true brotherhood will benefit the well-being of the community and the individual. After all the hard work, on April 14, 2011, we established a foundation of Omega Delta Phi values at UIC. We are dedicated towards serving the multicultural, local and international communities.

Through our brotherhood sacraments of unity, honesty, integrity and leadership, our goal is to nurture tomorrow's leaders, express the importance of academic success, and contribute philanthropic actions to the less fortunate. The Gentlemen of ODPHI excel at providing leadership development for its members in service, social and academic settings.

We promote networking with a multitude of organizations and individuals in various academic, community, and social events. We want our members to carry memories of an incredible tenure in school along with a positive outlook of being a mentor to the younger members when an alumnus. For more information contact Angel Sida, founding member of Omega Delta Phi, UIC Colony at asida3@uic.edu

LABS ALPFA Convention in Anaheim, California

by Oscar Gaspar

Wake up and smell the coffee! Every morning many students energize with a cup of coffee. What if there was something that could energize your college career? If you are a Latino/a and are majoring in business, the



Association of Latino Professionals in Finance and

Accounting (ALPFA) Convention is just the ingredient that will boost your career to new heights. This year with the support from LARES and other UIC departments, 10 UIC students attended the annual ALPFA Convention held in Anaheim, California. These students were all members of the Latino Association of Business Students (LABS), an organization that focuses on Latino professional development.

The ALPFA convention brought together some of the greatest Latino business talent in the U.S. It was similar to an unpredictable roller coaster. One moment you were networking with representatives of Deloitte or PWC, and the next moment you were entering a salsa competition. Disneyland was the perfect backdrop for the thousands of students that came together to create a truly magical experience.

LABS is an organization that engages and executes, a strategy that enables it to become the 2011 number one ALPFA student chapter of the Midwest award, a first in UIC's history. It truly is an incredible time to be a Latino business student because the face of America is changing and it is more Latino each day. Latinos do not realize that there are many sources of inspiration, sources that do not necessarily involve a 5-day convention. There is inspiration everywhere. Inspire your community, be the leader, the role-model it needs. You are not alone in your journey to success, there are programs that want to see you succeed, such as LARES and LABS.

Wake up and smell the coffee! You have the power to make a difference in your career! Attend a LABS meeting and get involved! LABS wants to continue this momentum.



Not Just Another Latino Organization

By Joel Torres

When it comes to student organizations, LUCHA (Latino Educators United for Change, get it?) is definitely one of the more awesome and tight-knit organizations you can be part of. Founded in 2008, LUCHA seeks to empower future Latino educators and bring awareness of issues in urban education at Chicago. One of the ways we have done this is through hosting an annual series of workshops as a part of our education conference throughout the month of April.

This past year we had a successful series of workshops that featured many distinguished speakers such as Jane Fleming from the Kids Like Us organization, The Chicago Grassroots Curriculum Taskforce, and UIC's very own faculty members; Zitlali Morales, Dave Stovall, and Julie Peters. The theme for the workshops were "Teaching in an Urban Setting", topics focused on issues such as teaching English Language Learners, making the curriculum relevant to students in an urban setting, and promoting literacy in an urban setting.

The conference is one of the many activities that LUCHA takes part in and we hope to do even more in the years to come. We have reached out to the community by supporting the Whittier parents and teaming up with the Future Teachers for Social Justice (FTSJ) student organization to tutor high school students. We hope to do even more of these activities, but we need more members to make it possible. If you are interested in bettering your education or if you simply want to network with like-minded students, join the LUCHA organization and together we can make a difference!

For more information, don't hesitate to email us at luchaedu@gmail.com



Joel Torres
Vice President



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“To empower students by providing personal growth and educational opportunities and to prepare leaders who will make individual and collective contributions toward the cultural and social advancement of the Latino community.”

**Check us out on the web!
www.lares.uic.edu**

Heads up! Upcoming UIC Events!!!

UIC Fall Diversity Fair

Open to anyone seeking full time, part time, or internship positions.

Free to UIC, UIUC, and UIS students and alumni with proof. \$10 for everyone else.

When: Thursday, September 29, 2011

Time: 10:00-2:30pm

Where: Illinois Room, Student Center East

falldiversityfair.ocs.uic.edu



“When foreign languages aren’t foreign: Heritage Speakers in the United States

Presented by Kim Potowski

When: Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Time: 12:00p.m.

Where: Latino Cultural Center, Lecture Center B2



Immigration Nation: Raids, Detention and Deportations In Post 9-11 America Presented by **Tanya Boza Golash**

When: Thursday, October 20, 2011

Time: 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Where: Latino Cultural Center, Lecture Center B2

Cultural Showcase

This annual competitive showcase celebrates the rich cultural diversity of UIC's student organizations through song, dance, spoken word, and other forms of performance art.

When: Thursday, October 27, 2011

Time: 6:00-8:00pm

Where: Illinois Room SCE Student Center East



LALS MASTER'S OPEN HOUSE

When: Thursday, November 10, 2011

Time: 4:00p.m.

Where: UH 1550 Conference Room



Illinois DREAM Act Panel

When: Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Time: 12:00p.m.

Where: Latino Cultural Center, Lecture Center B-2

