IULAA BUCKET WIN
The IU Latino Alumni Association alumni celebrate and hold up the custom-made bucket for the IULAA and Purdue Latino Alumni Organization (PLAO) at the IULAA/PLAO. The Bucket Watch party was held in Hammond, Ind., on November 28, 2010. IU defeated Purdue in OT 34-31. Pictured left to right: David Mota, Adam Azcona, Sergio Avila, Gavin Mariano, and Raul Sanchez, all are IUB alumni.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR IULAA PRESIDENT

Saludos a Todos! Over a year ago, you honored me by electing me IULAA President. I appreciate the confidence you had in me to lead this organization and to build on the solid foundation established by past officers and members. You made my job easier by electing other capable leaders who serve this association selflessly. While I am grateful for all of their efforts, I wish to express special kudos of appreciation to a few of our “2nd Effort” volunteers Regina Lee, MBA’03; Amanda Hellman BS’10, MA’97; Martin Vargas, BS’94; Cyndi Carrasco, JD’06; and ex officios Lillian Casillas, BA’89, AC’89, MS’98., Clarence Boone BA’81, MPA’84, Stefan Davis and Amy Warner, BA’83, MS’00 for their service to the IULAA over the past year.

Early in my life I came to understand that education is society’s greatest equalizer no matter where you came from or the color of your skin. As a first-generation, Puerto Rican, low-income kid from a home of 13 siblings in Fort Wayne, I felt that the opportunity to come to Indiana University back in 1985 through the Groups Program was a dream that allowed the vicious cycle of poverty to finally cease. Pursuing a college education gave me inspiration, hope, and put my seemingly impossible dream within reach. In Bloomington, I met an amazing woman, Georgia Burgeno, who often reminded me that I belonged in college for my intelligence and not the color of my skin. I am grateful to Georgia for recognizing my fortitude when I didn’t see it myself.

Because of my undergraduate experiences, I vowed to help other Latino students achieve their dreams. As IULAA President, I strive to provide leadership and scholarship opportunities through partnerships with La Casa, the IU Office of Admissions, and the Groups Program that lead to the continued recruitment, retention, and graduation of Latino/Latina students.

In order to continue what we do at a much higher level, we need to recruit additional alumni and seek their active support. With this in mind as we continue through 2012, please review our mission at http://alumni.indiana.edu/affiliates/latino/index.html, then express your area of interest at Latinoaa@indiana.edu.

Best wishes and thanks for your continued support.

Alice Jordan-Miles, BA’89, MS’97
President, Indiana University Latino Alumni Association

Presenting Raquel Delgado’s Collection

FASHION SHOW
Thursday, March 22
7:00pm
Neal-Marshall Black Cultural Center

- Featuring Designs by IU Student Raquel Delgado
- Music by Abroax Segundo
- Drinks and Refreshments
In collaboration with The Indiana Latino Alumni Association Scholarship Fund
All Proceeds Benefit The Indiana Latino Alumni Association Scholarship Fund
Please email Raquel Delgado at raqueldelgado@gmail.com for more information.
To take leadership workshops, attend a career and high school students in Indiana an opportunity. The Latino Leadership Conference offers both college fraternities and three sororities, while organizations grown from one fraternity and sorority to two. In 20 years, the Latino Greek community has Gamma Phi Omega’s 20th anniversary. Over 300 members of visited IUB’s campus for the opportunities minority students, especially the original members hoped to help pave the way to graduation, the first to leave home—the first in their community to go to college, the first to leave home— and sometimes home is in a completely different country. The conference ended with a place to call home and a genuine support system. The sorority and Latino community at IU not only financially, but as the cheering spectators at homecoming parades and the Little 500 race. Aside from supplying continuous school spirit, alumnae participate as mentors to the current undergraduates, offering career and leadership advice.

As sisters from each of the 14 chapters took tours of IU at the 2011 conference, they celebrated not only the six women who founded the organization, but the women who came after. They thought about the many changes that each chapter has helped bring about over 20 years and the many changes yet to come. The conference ended with a promise to continue fulfilling the goals of Gamma Phi Omega International Sorority, Inc.
The many experiences I had while studying at Indiana University Bloomington were filled with rich lessons, and I find that I’m still applying them to the things I do in everyday life now—particularly, mentoring. As president of a northwest Indiana non-profit group called Hispanic Organization Promoting Excellence (HOPE), I help recruit mentors for high school-aged Latino students who participated in HOPE’s Youth Leadership Academy. Since 2007, I have also served as one of the group’s mentors.

I am confident that the educational and cultural influence I exert as a professional Latino male can help guide a young person on a path to earning a college degree. This is precisely why I volunteer. Along the way, high school students face the often grueling necessities of college preparation, such as taking the SAT, applying for financial aid, visiting and applying at various schools; and they occasionally find themselves arriving on a campus detached from their own ethnic background. Fortunately, for me, IUB had resources and experiences which helped me stay connected to my culture.

Hombre Latino was a group that made a difference for me. Founded in 2000 by Assistant Professor of English Manual Martinez and doctoral student Ricardo Montelongo, the group’s concept was to invite Latino male students to weekly discussions about myriad issues relating to men such as health, discrimination, masculinity, and education.

Gavin Mariano is an IULAA Life Member. He earned his BA from IUB in 2001 and is expecting to earn his MSW from IUN at 2014.

IULAA BY THE NUMBERS

8103 is the total number of IU Latino Alumni!

4050 IU Latino Alumni live in Indiana.

48 is the number of IU Schools representing IU Latino Alumni.

Over $12,000 is the amount of IULAA scholarships granted since 2003.

WHY I VOLUNTEER

By Gavin Mariano, IULAA, Immediate Past President

One phrase I remembered from Martinez was to be a leader “in the true sense.” At the time, I felt that I was doing just that, because I was president of Omega Delta Phi (ODPhi) Latino Fraternity. Being part of this organization meant bonding, brotherhood, service, and most importantly, cultural pride. I was fortunate to have several influential figures encourage me to “forge ahead,” particularly Dr. Alberto Torchinsky and former Dean of Students Dick McKaig. These men were indeed mentors to me during my college years. Today, I’m privileged to be in a position to motivate a young student to “forge ahead.”

According to a 2010 American Council on Education study, the number of Latino male undergraduates in 2007–08 ages 24 or younger stood at 42% (having dropped 3% from 1999–2000), while a mere 10% of Latino males of the same age group earned bachelor degrees. I suppose if it weren’t for HOPE, ODPhi, or Hombre Latino, perhaps these numbers would be even lower. Yet, what remains consistently high, is the need to apply lessons and experiences, such as those I had at IUB, to our professional realm, and to mentor a young Latino student into a new phase in their lives—one of stratospheric possibilities.

Volunteers are needed to sit on the selection committees for both the Distinguished Alumni Award as well as the Latino Student Scholarship. Both awards will be given out at a reception in Fall 2012. Committee members will work with the Committee chair to select Distinguished Alumni or recommend a scholarship winner. Both committees will operate electronically or via conference calls with no need for face-to-face meetings. Please express your willingness to serve on one of these committees by emailing the committee chair listed below.

The purpose of the Distinguished Latino Alumni Award is to provide recognition for outstanding achievements by the Latina/o men and women of Indiana University. To be eligible for the award, nominees must: (1) be living; (2) have been outstanding in his/her chosen field of endeavor; and/or (3) have made significant contributions benefiting his/her community, state, nation, or University. Committee Chair, Martin Vargas, martinpvargas@hotmail.com

The purpose of the Latino Alumni Association Undergraduate Scholarship is to award and recognize students who are academically prepared, involved in their community, exhibit leadership qualities benefiting the IU Latino community and who work to foster an appreciation of the Latino experience in the United States. Committee Chair, Cynthia Carrasco, ccarrasco@ig.in.gov
SAVE THE DATE: LA CASA 40TH ANNIVERSARY APPROACHES

Dear IULAA Members,
The Latino Cultural Center, better known as La Casa, has been in existence in Bloomington, Indiana, since 1973. Thanks to the hard work and persistence of the Alianza Latina del Mideoste de America Organization (A.L.M.A) (now known as Latinos Unidos), Indiana University established an office where the needs of minority students would be met.

La Casa has impacted many students’ lives. It has been a place where students from all nationalities and ethnicities have had the chance to create their own community. La Casa helped establish Greek systems, organizations, and clubs specifically targeting Latino needs. Over the years, La Casa became a ‘home away from home’ for many IU students, and today it still continues to serve its multifaceted purpose on the Bloomington campus.

As La Casa’s 40th birthday approaches, we would like to invite you to save the date for an alumni weekend kick-off to this anniversary. The alumni weekend celebration will take place October 11-13, 2013. In addition, the celebration will be sustained through special events and programs throughout the 2013-2014 academic year.

Sincerely,
La Casa’s 40th Year Anniversary Planning Co-Chairs
Guadalupe Anaya and Daniel Esteban Simonsohn

Save the Date
La Casa is turning 40!
Join us for the anniversary weekend kick-off with formal banquet and dance. Get ready as well for 2013-14 academic year filled with special events, networking opportunities and much more.

Date: 10/11-13/2013

Latino Cultural Center (La Casa)
Indiana University Bloomington

For more information:
Phone: 812-855-0174
E-mail: lacasa@indiana.edu

Alice Jordan-Miles graduated from Indiana University Bloomington with a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice and sociology and received her master’s degree in education and organizational leadership from Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne (IPFW). She currently is the Assistant Director of the Behavioral Health and Family Studies Institute and Project Director of the Indiana Suicide Prevention Coalition at IPFW.

Alice is very committed to her family, faith, and community. Born and raised in Fort Wayne, Indiana, her community involvement includes over 25 years of mentoring and advising youth from at-risk communities where she founded the HOT (Hoosiers of Tomorrow) Mentoring Program in partnership with the Northeast Indiana Alumni Chapter. She is a 21 Alive Women in Leadership recipient and nominee of the YWCA Women in Leadership Award. In addition to being IULAA president, she is an executive council member to the Indiana University Alumni Association and a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church advisory council. Alice was also recently recognized as one of Fort Wayne’s top 100 connectors.

In spite of all of her achievements, Alice considers her greatest accomplishment her family. She and her husband, Brian, have been married more than 15 years and have three amazing children—Ross, Emilia, and Gabrielle, and a beautiful granddaughter, Audrina. Alice’s hobbies include playing softball, reading, gardening, and going to ZUMBA class.
IULAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Cynthia Carrasco (Board Member 2011-2014) resides in Indianapolis, Indiana. She is currently Executive Director for the Indiana State Ethics Commission.

Lillian Casillas (Ex-Officio) resides in Bloomington, Indiana. She is Director of the IUB La Casa/ Latino Cultural Center.

Angela Comas (Board Member 2011-2014) resides in Schererville, Indiana. A graduate of IUN and IUPUI, she is on the board of directors for the Indiana Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.

Gavin Mariano (Immediate Past President) resides in Merrillville, Indiana. Currently pursuing a MSW at IUN, he has been Public Relations Director for Crisis Center, Inc. since 2001. Mariano was recognized as one of the “Who’s Who in Indiana” by Building Indiana magazine in 2011.

Carolina Correa Medero (Board Member 2011-2014) resides in Astoria, New York. Medero is a documentary producer and former Associate Producer for The Friday Zone, the Emmy-winning children’s show produced at WTIU.

Brenda Graves-Croom (Board Member 2011-2013) resides in Indianapolis, Indiana. She is employed as President, Latino Advocacy Community Affairs, for the Indianapolis Urban League and is a member of the Gamma Phi Omega sorority.

Amanda Helman (Board Member 2011-2013) resides in Indianapolis, Indiana. She is on staff at the IUPUI Community Learning Network and is a program director for IUPUI General Studies.

Jerame Hicks (Vice President 2011-2013) resides in East Chicago, Indiana. He is director of the Middle School Athletic Department and a teacher at George Rogers Clark Middle School/High School.

Alice Jordan-Miles (President 2011-2013) resides in Fort Wayne, Indiana. She currently is the Assistant Director of the Behavioral Health and Family Studies Institute, Project Director of the Indiana Suicide Prevention Coalition at IPFW, Founder of Hoosiers of Tomorrow (HOT) mentoring program, and a member of the IUAA Executive Council.

Adam Karcz (Board Member 2011-2013) resides in Smyrna, Georgia. He earned his Master of Public Health degree at IUB and is employed as an Epidemiologist at Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta.

Regina Lee (Treasurer 2011-2013) resides in Avon, Indiana. Formerly, Regional Executive for the National Society of Hispanic MBAs, she is a board member of the IU Kelly School of Business Alumni Association and President of the Indianapolis Alumni Association of Alpha Xi Delta.

Shakira Morera-Felix (Board Member 2011-2013) resides in Houston, Texas. She attended Purdue University for undergraduate school and IU Bloomington for graduate school and is currently employed as a scientist at Hamilton Sundstrand.

Yecenia Tostado (Board Member 2011-2014) resides in Fort Wayne, Indiana, where she is an academic specialist with IPFW Upward Bound. Tostado is currently a board member of the IUAA Northeast Indiana Chapter.

Martin P. Vargas (Board Member 2011-2014) resides in Knoxville, Tennessee. An entrepreneur and ecommerce pioneer, he is formerly a Senior International Business Analyst at WAL-MART Stores, Inc. Vargas is currently focused on lowering costs and increasing patient outcomes in the healthcare industry.

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In honor of National Women’s History Month and the 40th Anniversary of The Office of Women’s Affairs, La Casa and the IU Latino Alumni Association are hosting a panel discussion by three IU Latina graduates who have made history in their own way in Indiana as a judge, faculty (educator/performer) and student.

Join us on:
March 7, 2012 at 7 p.m.
Latino Cultural Center (La Casa)
715 E. 7th St.

www.indiana.edu/~lacasa