

IU Latino Alumni News

Vol. 5, No. 2/Spring 2005

Indiana University Latino Alumni Association

La Casa, students reach out to Latino high schoolers

Spurred by the low university enrollment rates of Latino students and the lack of information getting to Latino high school students, La Casa director **Lillian Casillas** has started an outreach project to help Latino high school students learn more about college.

Casillas, fellow staff member **Michelle Gutierrez**, and student volunteers visit high schools and give presentations that cover various themes, such as reasons to attend college, application procedures, standardized tests, financial aid, and college life. So far during this academic year, Casillas's group has visited or has scheduled to visit 12 schools from Angola to New Albany and places in between.

Casillas says that she has been saddened by some of her contacts with Latino students because many lack even basic information about college. Casillas believes that oftentimes students do not receive information about college because someone else has decided that they are not "college material."

IU Bloomington senior **Liliana Garcia** was surprised at all the questions about standardized tests at a recent outreach event. "There was one young lady who was a senior [in high school] and was waiting to be accepted to IU," says Garcia, "but she had not taken the SAT yet. She had just recently learned about the test requirement. I was disappointed to hear of the lack of support from guidance counselors."

Another major issue that arises is financial aid. "In our outreach, we have found that many students and their families have little information on how to pay for college, what the resources are, and how to plan ahead. In many of these cases, the students will have to educate the parents," says Gutierrez.

For everyone who volunteers their time for these outreach efforts, it is especially important that the information

is coming from other Latinos. Casillas believes that it is key to show students role models from the Latino community: "Latinos talking to Latinos is so important when you are trying to convince students to finish high school and to look at the role education plays in enhancing opportunities for their future."

Garcia believes that sharing personal experiences can encourage those who

may be facing similar barriers and can also provide a realistic picture of college life and the challenges that may be encountered.

Garcia says it is important that IU alumni somehow also get involved in efforts to encourage and support Latino students. "As alumni, you are enduring life's everyday challenges out in the real

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Mezcla gets in gear for 2005



Coaches **Brian Noojin**, far left, and **Tim Stockton** train with 2004 Mezcla riders, from left, **Barbara Alvarado**, **Rosa Bonilla**, **Monica Reyes**, **Josefa Madrigal**, **Liliana Cortez**, **Annette Soto**.

Ten years ago this spring, the first Latino Little 500 bike team was formed. The team had three successful seasons before the leading riders graduated. Last year, the first all-Latina bike team was formed and competed in Little 500, renewing Latino representation in the event.

Team leader **Rosa Bonilla** reports that the team is a "mixture of our beautiful Latin American cultures" and that the women are training daily. In fact, the name "Mezcla" means "mixture" in Spanish. The 2005 team is composed of **Bonilla**, **Barbara Alvarado**, **Jessica Barajas**, **Monica Reyes**, **Annette Soto**, and **Elizabeth Tegard**.

Team Mezcla would like to thank everyone who is supporting and encouraging the team, especially those who have given financially to help the team obtain much-needed equipment.

Mark your calendar!

Sept. 24 — Distinguished Latino Alumni Award Luncheon

Bloomington, Ind.; 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. Come back to the Bloomington campus and enjoy the annual luncheon to recognize the recipient of the 2005 Distinguished Latino Alumni Award and the LAA Undergraduate Scholarship winner. The luncheon is 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., followed by Festival Latino. For more information, contact Michelle Gutierrez at anmgutie@indiana.edu.

Sept. 24 — Festival Latino
Bloomington, Ind.; Noon – 7 p.m. Festival Latino is an annual free outdoor concert and community gathering open to the public. The event features live Latin music, authentic food, cultural outreach activities, interactive booths, and much more. What a great opportunity to enjoy the beautiful summer weather with family and friends while celebrating the Latino culture in a setting that brings together



Latinos and non-Latinos alike, from both the IU and the Bloomington communities. For more information, contact La Casa at (812) 855-0174 or www.iub.edu/~lacasa/.

Upcoming Alumni Receptions

Stay tuned for more information!

- East Chicago, Ind.; TBA
- South Bend, Ind.; TBA

This will be a joint reception with IUSB Latino alumni and a concert with Djembre, a band visiting from Cuernavaca, Mexico.

Distinguished Latino Alumni nominations now being accepted

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2005 Distinguished Latino Alumni Award. Nominations are due by April 1, 2005. Please use this form or the form on our Web site at www.indiana.edu/~latinoaa to nominate someone for this award. The nomination must be accompanied by a statement explaining the significant contributions the nominee has made in his or her community, state, nation, or university and a résumé or biographical data of the person you are nominating. Check out our Web site for the full criteria for the award.

Wanted: Board nominations

The Elections Committee of the Latino Alumni Association is accepting nominations for the board of directors, terms beginning September 2005. All terms are two years in length. These positions are being slated:

- President
- Vice president
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Six at-large members

Rules of Nomination

- Nominees must be members in good standing of the Latino Alumni Association.
- Nominations must be received by May 1, 2005.
- Self-nominations are acceptable and encouraged.
- Nominations should be submitted through the LAA Web site using the online nomination form.

2005 Election Calendar

- Feb. 1 — Call for nominations
- May 1 — Deadline for nominations
- June 15 — Slate presented, voting begins
- Aug. 1 — Last day for votes
- Aug. 15 — Results announced

Distinguished Latino Alumni Award Nomination

Please return this form to the Latino Alumni Association,
108 Memorial Hall West, 1021 E. Third St., Bloomington, IN 47405.
Phone: (812) 855-9632. Fax (812) 856-5477.
Nominations are due by April 1, 2005.



Nominee _____ Date _____

Last name while at IU _____

Degree(s) and years _____

Business title _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Nominated by _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Signature _____

La Casa, students

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world. I ask that you too find a way to give back."

For more information on these outreach efforts, please contact **Zeli-deh Martinez** at (812) 855-0174 or zmartine@indiana.edu.

Campus tapas

Alumni Notebook

La Casa director receives Staff Merit Award

Lillian Casillas, director of La Casa Latino Culture Center, was presented with the 2004 Staff Merit Award at a ceremony on the Bloomington campus on Oct. 13, 2004.

The award recognizes staff for, among other things, exemplary job performance and a demonstrated special effort toward improving Indiana University for the benefit of students, faculty, staff, alumni, and other university associates.

Each year, two staff members are chosen from each of three categories: service staff, support staff, and professional staff. A committee appointed by Chancellor Ken Gros Louis interviews nominees and chooses the award winner.

IUB ranks high nationally

IUB ranked 71st overall and 30th among public national research universities in the latest *U.S. News & World Report* rankings of the nation's top colleges and universities.



The Kelley School of Business ranked high in rankings by several other publications: 13th among MBA programs that appeal to corporate recruiters on a regional level by the *Wall Street Journal*; first for best professors and third for best facilities by the *Princeton Review*; and 18th among all MBA programs by *Business Week*.

The IU Bloomington School of Law Library tied for first place in a recent report by the *National Jurist*, which compared 183 law school libraries across the country. The October 2004 report, titled "Best Law Libraries: Why Indiana Outranks Harvard," ranked law school libraries based on such criteria as number of volumes and ratio of professional librarians to students.

Corona speaks at IUB

On March 2, **Maria Luz Corona**, BA'69, JD'81, spoke on the Bloomington campus at the opening reception for National Women's History Month. She spoke about her life as a woman in the judicial system, how she got there, and what challenges she has faced in her career as well as her life. Corona is the magistrate for the Domestic Relations Court of the Lake

Alex F. Argotte, BA'88, MD'92, is director of bariatric surgery at Lourdes Hospital in Paducah, Ky., where he lives with his wife, Melissa, and three young children. He can be reached at aargotte@yahoo.com.

Jim H. Arnold, BS'92, DDS'96, writes, "My wife, Sarah (Fischer) Arnold, BS'92, JD'96, and I have two children and live in Valparaiso, Ind. She is a 'supermom' and an avid runner. I have a thriving dental practice and teach cosmetic dentistry to dentists all over the country." The couple can be reached at jandsarnold1@comcast.net.

Richard J. Carrasco, BS'92, reports that his son, Hayden Jan Pedro Carrasco, was born Nov. 24, 2003. He and his wife, Basia, live in Mishawaka, Ind., and can be reached at hper92@comcast.net.

Marisol C. Cisneros, BGS'99, works as a pharmacist and pharmacy manager at Marsh Pharmacy in Muncie, Ind., where she lives with her husband, Michael J. Russell, BA'99. They can be reached at cisnerosrph@hotmail.com.

Vanessa Duncan, MM'96, released a CD of Judeo-Spanish (Ladino) songs called *Flor de Sorena*, which can be purchased at theorchard.com. She was recently married to Anthony Stroe, who is from Peru.

Joseph B. Lax-Salinas, BA'03, writes, "Upon graduation, I worked at the Star Plaza Theater in Merrillville, Ind., as a runner for celebrities such as LeeAnn Rimes, Sara Evans, and Rachel Proctor. Since March 2004, I have been working as an admissions counselor for Robert Morris College in Orland Park, Ill. Over Halloween weekend, the college sent me and 40 co-workers on a four-day cruise to the Bahamas for a six-hour business conference!" Lax-Salinas can be reached at joeyiu03@hotmail.com.

Victor J. Luaces, BS '75, is director of growth and development for Service

By Air Inc., a logistics firm with offices throughout the world. He and his wife, Theresa, have a daughter, Erin. He writes, "We are all very excited about moving back closer to the rest of our family and enjoying Philadelphia again." They can be reached at vluaces@earthlink.net.

Sonia Miller-Van Oort, JD'97, has been elected to serve as secretary of the Hennepin County Bar Association in Minnesota, one of the largest bar associations, with almost 8,000 members. Before accepting her current job as an associate attorney with the Flynn Gaskins & Bennett law firm in Minneapolis, Van Oort was an attorney with Faegre & Benson. She lives in Hopkins, Minn., with her husband, Mark, and their young son.

Leighmargaret Prifogle, BS'03, has been working on her master's at IU Southeast while teaching at Floyd Central High School in Floyds Knobs. She was part of the National Writing Project in 2004. Prifogle lives in New Albany, Ind.

In memoriam

Victoria Soto Candlaria, BA'72, died at age 65 in Munster, Ind., on July 4, 2004. For 29 years she taught in schools in East Chicago. She was president of the East Chicago Federation of Teachers from 1987 to 2001 and the Indiana Federation of Teachers from 1997 to 2003. She was Indiana vice president of the AFL-CIO. A three-time adviser to President Clinton on national educational policy, she was a guest at both of Clinton's inaugurations. Soto was a member of the Indiana Governor's Roundtable on Education and was a Sagamore of the Wabash. She served as a trustee for Ivy Tech State College.

Membership matters

(800) 824-3044 or

www.alumni.indiana.edu

County Superior Court in Gary, Ind.

Corona says that when she first came to IU, she was one of five Hispanics on campus. The first Latino weekend was organized at that time and



became one of her fondest memories. She continues to be active with IU and now holds a life membership in the IU Alumni Association.

The Alumni Association "is a terrific method of staying in touch with the university," she says. "It has a lot to offer. It's inclusive. Becoming a member was the best thing I did."

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Alumni notebook

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She advises undergraduates to “try new experiences, make friends outside your own safe circle, and give back to your community in whatever way you can.”

Corona also has a master’s degree in social work from the University of Denver; her IU bachelor’s degree is in Spanish and sociology. In addition to her current work, she has worked in northern Indiana since 1969 as a school social worker, teacher, and private advocate.

Latino Leadership Conference held in Bloomington

The sixth annual Indiana University Latino Leadership Conference, held on the IUB campus on March 5, was organized by the Latino Enhancement Cooperative and La Casa to celebrate the uniqueness of Latino students in a forum by and for students. The forum seeks to cultivate the exchange of ideas, values, and beliefs to promote scholarship, development, and empowerment of Indiana’s college and high school Latinos. The Latino Alumni Association sponsored the conference breakfast and organized a morning team-building session. Board members **Esther Vargas** and **Gavin Zapata** participated throughout the daylong conference.

Latino Alumni News

IU Latino Alumni News is published by the IU Alumni Association for the IU Latino Alumni Association to encourage alumni interest in and support for IU. For membership information, please call (800) 824-3044 or e-mail ialumni@indiana.edu.

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What’s new with you?



The IU Alumni Association is charged with maintaining records for all IU alumni. Please print as much of the following information as you wish. Its purpose, in addition to providing us with your class note, is to keep IU’s alumni records accurate and up to date. To verify and update your information online, visit our online alumni directory at www.alumni.indiana.edu/directory.

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