



DUKE UNIVERSITY LATIN@ ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Fall 2008 Newsletter

Saludos! For some of you, this is an introduction to the Duke University Latin@ Alumni Association (DULAA), an 'affinity' group of Duke Alumni! We welcome your interest and contribution as we build a greater community among Duke's Latino/Hispanic alumni and present students. Our goals are to reconnect alumni, establish new bonds with alumni from different time periods, establish connections with current students, and help attract top Latino/Hispanic candidates to Duke. Accordingly, we have included the following features into our newsletter:

- DULAA Updates and Plans - endeavors of and plans for our growing group
- Young Alumni Focus - to learn more about what some of our alumni are doing
- *Como es la Vida en Duke* - highlights the experiences of current students
- *Que Pasa* on Campus - to keep everyone abreast of how campus life is changing
- *Compartiendo* - a place for alumni updates so that we all can share a bit more about our lives from careers to families.

To begin, we would like to recognize the service provided by those who have participated in the Interim Executive Committee and/or have volunteered in our earliest activities and events, including: Tico Almeida (T '99), Nelson C. Bellido (T '89), Christopher Brandt (T '00), Marina D. Crosby (F '97 Summer course), Ingrid Cubillos (T '99), Anthony De Yurre (T '01), Alejandro Fernandez (T '96), Roberto Gonzalez (T '96), Betsy Guzman (T '95), Isabel Hidrobo (T '99), Enrique M. Loncán (L '97), Tomas Lopez (T '06), Hillary McKean-Peraza (T '05), Polentzi Narvarte (T '03), Laura Negrete Limón (T '97), Alicia Overstreet Galeano (T '98), Kimberly Reyes (T '03), Richard Rivera (T '03), Marisol Rodriguez (T '07), Rosemarie Salguero (T '02), Marta Urquilla (T '93), Vince Vila, and Circe Zamora (T '95).

DULAA would love to learn more about the experiences of Alumni through the years. We know of many organizations such as Spanish American Latin Student Association (SALSA), *Mi Gente: Asociación de Estudiantes Latinos*, *La Unidad Latina*/Lambda Upsilon Lambda Fraternity, Inc., *Latinas Promoviendo Comunidad*/Lambda Pi Chi Sorority, Inc., Omega Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., *Gente Aprendiendo por Nuevas Oportunidades* (GANO), Latino Pre-Health Society, Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE), Student Action with Farmworkers (SAF), *Sabrosura*, Cuban-American Student Association (CASA), Latino Life Connection, and the Latin@ Graduate Students Association .

DULAA Updates and Plans:

If you would like to learn more about what we have been doing, please read below and go to our website at www.dulaa.org and/or visit our page on [Facebook!](#)

Key Early Successes

On the website, you will find information about what DULAA has done these past few years including links to reports from the committees established after the lacrosse incident, where we encouraged university leadership to respond positively to the incident by stepping up efforts to promote a diverse and inclusive community. Amongst evidence of progress is the creation of a Diversity Inclusion Committee in the Duke University Alumni Association. The alumni association has recognized that a growing number of Alumni come from a wider array of cultures, races, ethnicities, religious traditions, etc. Two DULAA members serve on this committee, Nelson Bellido (T '89) and Julian Sanchez (Director, Duke Multicultural Affairs), and there is great potential for institutional support of our efforts.

Latino Alumni Scholarship Fund

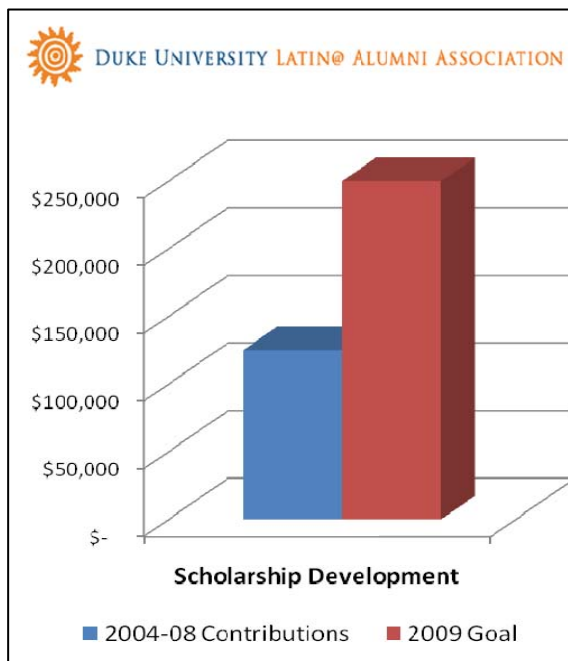
One of DULAA's objectives is to endow an alumni-sponsored scholarship for financially underprivileged Latino matriculates to Duke. We need your help to get us to our 2009 goal of \$250,000. The fund currently stands at \$125,000 with 85 contributors. To make a contribution to the scholarship, please contact Regina Long, Associate Director of Arts & Sciences Development at regina.long@duke.edu or (919) 684-1976.

Reunion 2009

DULAA, in collaboration with Mi Gente: Asociación de Estudiantes Latinos and the Center for Multicultural Affairs, has hosted several reunions during which Alumni have participated in career panels and welcomed soon to be Alumni. We are currently planning our next reunion for the weekend of March 27-29, 2009. This is the same weekend as the Latino Student Recruitment Weekend (LSRW), which will allow alumni to meet with both prospective and current students, as well as catch up with fellow alums. We encourage you to make travel arrangements now for this special weekend to reconnect with Duke and your fellow Latino alumni. If you are interested in participating in a career panel to be hosted for undergraduate and prospective students, please let us know.

DULAA is in NYC and other cities!

About a dozen alums met in New York two summers ago to reconnect and find out more about DULAA. That was the start of the first local chapter of our association. If you live in New York and would like to work with our members there to organize other events, please contact us. If you live in any other city and would like to organize a local chapter, let us know by emailing us at emailDULAA@gmail.com.



Young Alumni Focus

In each issue we hope to share the stories of some of our members. Here is our first group of alumni whose lives have lead them in many different directions. Please read on to learn more about your fellow alums.



Christopher Brandt (T '00) is the founder of Audacious Inquiry, a growing management & technology consulting firm based in Columbia, Maryland. Audacious Inquiry (www.ainq.com) consults in the fields of health information systems, web application development, and analytical marketing. While studying Computer Science at Duke, Christopher served as President of La Unidad Latina, Lambda Upsilon Lambda Fraternity, and he played a key role in the development of the first Latino Student Recruitment Weekend.

After graduation from Duke, Christopher worked for five years with Prudential Financial and earned an MBA from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. He is currently proud to serve on the executive committee for DULAA and to contribute to the development of the DULAA scholarship. He hopes that you will get involved with the association and contribute what you can to the scholarship!



Nelson C. Bellido is a graduate of the Class of '89. He is a business lawyer in South Florida where he has practiced for 16 years. He graduated from the University of Florida School of Law and became an Assistant State Attorney with the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office. Today, he is a partner at the firm of Concepcion Sexton & Martinez where he specializes in commercial litigation, corporate contracts, banking & financing, products liability, premises liability and white collar criminal defense. He represents top 100 companies as well as small businesses and individuals.

Nelson is married and has 2 children.

Nelson is very engaged with Duke as he serves on the Board of Directors of the Duke Alumni Association and has also served for a decade as President of the local Duke Club of Miami & Ft. Lauderdale. He is very excited to join DULAA and its quest to continue to fund scholarships for needy Hispanic students. Nelson was President of the Duke's Spanish-American Latin Student Association (SALSA) while at Duke in the late 80s. He was also co-founder of SPECTRUM, a group that consisted of leaders from various minority organizations such as the Black Student Association, Asian Student Association, Native American Student Association and others who focused on increasing diversity at Duke at all levels from curriculum to students and professors.

Nelson encourages you to join DULAA and contribute to this worthy cause. Every contribution counts and will make a difference in a Hispanic/Latino child's life.



Alejandro Fernandez graduated from Duke University in 1996 with a degree in Economics. While at Duke, he co-founded the Duke chapter of La Unidad Latina, Lambda Upsilon Lambda Fraternity. He also served as co-coordinator for Mi Gente. Upon graduation, he joined Susquehanna International Group and began a career as a market maker on the floor of the Chicago Board Options Exchange. After trading in the pits for 6 years, he moved to their corporate headquarters outside of Philadelphia, PA. He currently assists in managing their options market making group, a group that includes over 50 traders, 70 technologists, and 20 research associates. He also manages the trading activity in their special situations

group. He remains committed to the advancement of Latinos in education. He seeded the initial money for the Duke Latin@ Alumni Scholarship Foundation and serves on the board for the La Unidad Latina Foundation. He is currently engaged to Erica Daza and they plan to wed in May 2010.



Marisol Rodriguez is a young alumna of the Class of 2007. She was born and raised in the Texas border town of Brownsville. Coming to Duke was a huge step for her as she was the first person in her family to ever attend college. She came to Duke thinking she was going to be pre-med, but after a semester she decided that was not for her and finally decided that she would study Psychology and Spanish as well as go through the Elementary Teacher Preparation Program at Duke. While at Duke, Marisol was very involved in different activities and organizations. She was an active member of the Catholic Student Center, serving as their Hispanic Ministry Coordinator for two years and also serving on the leadership team for the

Center's Awakening Retreat. As the Hispanic Ministry Coordinator, she was responsible for putting on the Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration which is very prominent among the Mexican community, as well as other Latin American Countries. Marisol was also a Healthy Devil Peer Educator with DELISH and SHARP in which she promoted awareness on campus in topics such as sexual health and sexual harassment and rape prevention. As a peer educator Marisol was also a part of the Real Deal, a show put on to incoming freshman each year. Mi Gente is another organization of which Marisol was a part of. She served on Mi Gente council for three years: two of them as community service chair, and one year as the Mezcla (Mi Gente's annual cultural show) co-chair. Aside from her academics and school activities, Marisol found time to also hold various jobs during her Duke career including working with the Community Service Center, Catholic Student Center, SAF (Student Action for Farmworkers), and a job at a Psych lab. Today, Marisol works fulltime as a Senior Research Assistant at the Center for Child and Family Policy at Duke. She splits her time working on a study called "Parenting Across Cultures" in which she interviews Latino families, and also works as an interpreter with a program called Durham Connects, which is a program that offers free nurse home visits to moms that have just had a newborn baby in Durham County. Marisol hopes to go back to school within the next couple of years to get her Masters in either Family and Marriage Counseling or School Psychology. She hopes to have her own practice one day.

Quirina M. Vallejos, a 1999 Duke graduate is now a Research Associate with the Wake Forest University School of Medicine. She is also Center Coordinator of the Center for Worker Health at Wake Forest University School of Medicine. She has worked for 5 years coordinating research and intervention projects that address the health of Hispanic/Latino immigrants, including farmworkers and poultry processing workers. Topics of projects she coordinates include occupational skin diseases among farmworkers, farmworkers' pesticide exposure, pesticide safety education, lead poisoning prevention, reducing children's exposure to environmental tobacco smoke, and musculoskeletal injuries among poultry processing workers.

Circe B. Zamora graduated from Duke University in May 1995. She went on to attend the University of Florida Levin College of Law and graduated 1998. Circe worked as an Assistant State Attorney from 1998 thru 2000. From there she moved on to a law firm where she was an associate until January 2002. She opened her own law practice in 2002. Circe married on November 17, 2001 to Guadalupe Zamora. They have a daughter, Jasmine born in March of 2005. Currently, Circe Zamora, Attorney At Law & Associates, P.A. has been open for practically seven years with one associate attorney, one paralegal, and one legal secretary. The majority of her clients are Latinos. They practice in the areas of Auto Accidents, Bankruptcy, Criminal Defense, Family Law, and Immigration. Circe stays in frequent contact with and sees several friends from her time at Duke including: Betsy Guzman, Jessica Portilla George, Tara Presser (Norton), Stacey Gray, Jose A. Colon, Laura Limon (Negrete) and Rachel Wheeler (Pearson).

Como es la Vida en Duke

One of the best ways to keep up with how Duke is changing is to keep up with our current Latino students. They are effecting unprecedented change on our campus and making great use of the incredible new opportunities that Duke is offering. In this issue Viviana Santiago, a Trinity junior, shows us *como es la vida en Duke*.



Viviana Santiago, a junior in the Trinity College of Arts & Sciences, is a woman on a mission to accomplish the goals she has laid out for her remaining years at Duke – and she's not wasting any time either. Originally born in Venezuela, raised in San Juan, Puerto Rico and Gainesville, Florida, and of Guatemalan and Spanish descent, Viviana brings a unique Latinidad to Duke. As a top student and musician at F.W. Buchholz High School in Gainesville, she soon found herself at Duke with a wealth of opportunity in front of her. Aside from being a Pre-Law student, Viviana has chosen to major in Women's studies and is considering certificates in Sexuality Studies, Latin American Studies, or Latino/a Studies. Although Viviana admits that she was slow to find a niche in Duke's social scene, her extracurricular activities have helped her find that balance. Viviana, who has been playing the flute since 6th grade, has been a flautist in Duke's Symphony Orchestra and currently volunteers with the Health Arts Network at Duke (HAND), where she plays for patients at Duke Medical Center. She serves on the executive board for Project CHILD, an orientation program for first-year students geared toward mentorship of students within the greater Durham community. Viviana has even co-taught a House Course, entitled Latinos in Durham, where she and a fellow

classmate used a discussion-based setting to educate fellow Duke students about the social, cultural, and educational climate confronting this important population demographic. However, Viviana's dedication to the well-being of Latino communities doesn't stop there. This past summer, Viviana was one of hundreds of Duke Students to participate in DukeEngage, Duke's newest and most exciting program for undergraduates. For those of you who haven't yet heard about DukeEngage, prepare to be very jealous. Jumpstarted by generous donations from the Duke Endowment and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, DukeEngage provides funding to undergraduates to participate in an immersive community service experience based locally, nationally, or internationally. During their DukeEngage experience, students take the character, work ethic, and academic knowledge they have acquired at Duke and apply it to the problems being addressed at their respective service sites - places like Guatemala, China, Kenya, Seattle, New Orleans, and Durham - just to name a few.

Viviana embarked on the DukeEngage program entitled "Encuentros de la Frontera: US-Mexico Border Civic Engagement", located at the border area between Tucson, Arizona and Nogales, Mexico. Here, Viviana spent eight weeks working with the Human Rights Coalition, during which she listened to and documented the personal stories of immigrants and the challenges they faced as a result of their status. In conjunction with faculty from the University of Arizona, she learned about controversial immigration court cases and saw first-hand the emotional toll that these investigations took on the families involved. When she returned from her time at the Border, Viviana had a new outlook on her potential as a change agent within the Latino community and she decided to take action. She is a part of the new student organization, Duke Students for Humane Borders, and is now seriously considering a career in immigration law. Viviana also decided that she couldn't wait any longer to begin a project she has wanted to get off the ground for quite some time. Just this fall, Viviana started Empowering Latina Leaders in Action (ELLA), a mentorship program where Duke Latina students can forge positive bonds with middle school Latinas in Durham.

Viviana is a stellar example of what Latino students at Duke can accomplish and the tremendous impact they are having on the Durham community. She is clearly headed for a successful and fulfilling career and the DULAA wishes her the best of luck in her future endeavors.

To learn more about DukeEngage, please visit <http://dukeengage.duke.edu/>.

Que Pasa on Campus

Duke University's Commitment to Latino Studies:

After years of effort on the part of students, staff, and faculty, the University has approved a new undergraduate certificate entitled *Latino/a Studies in the Global South*. The new director of the program is Professor Antonio Viego, whom many alumni have worked with in the past. The University has made a significant pledge to Latino/a Studies, with anticipated development of course offerings, research grants, on-site conferences, and fellowships. The University has dedicated offices for the Director, Associate Director, and a Latino/a Studies Resource Room in the Old Art Museum. To learn more about Latino/a Studies, please visit their website (latino.aas.duke.edu) for events and updates.

Current Students Organizations and Activities, *opportunities to get involved*

This year is bringing about a lot of positive movement for Latino students at Duke University. The office of Undergraduate Admissions continues new initiatives to improve recruitment of Latino students, including the formation of the Latino Admissions Recruitment Program, where current Latino students do everything from hosting campus visits from under resourced schools to acting as representatives at college fairs and other recruitment events. Furthermore, the 2008 Latino Student Recruitment Weekend (LSRW), which took place this past April, was one of the most successful weekends we've ever had in the history of the annual program. The Undergraduate Admissions office and many generous students hosted nearly 85 prospective students for 3 days of events including classes, film screenings, panel discussions with students and alumni, and the annual Noche Dorada gala, sponsored by Lambda Upsilon Lambda Fraternity, Inc. Almost half of those students chose Duke as the place to embark on their undergraduate careers.

Students, freshmen and upperclass, have wasted no time getting straight to business this year. Mi Gente has been extremely active in the past year with their campus programming. They have hosted political outlook discussions in preparation for the November elections, educational lectures revolving around current affairs in Latin America, and managed to orchestrate Latin Chic, a university-wide party that transformed the library into a nightclub where students, faculty, and staff danced to live Latin music. In addition to Mi Gente, three new organizations have joined Duke's campus in the past year. The Cuban-American Students Association (C.A.S.A.) is focusing on raising awareness around Cuba-specific issues. The Latino Pre-Health society began last year as a part of Mi Gente to support Latino undergraduates interested in medicine, dentistry, and other health-related professions. They are looking for Alumni in the health professions who are interested in serving as mentors. Additionally, the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE), a national organization devoted to working with and supporting Hispanic students in engineering and sciences, has begun a new chapter at Duke University. A number of students have been working on bringing SHPE to Duke's campus for some time now, and their efforts have finally come to fruition. Finally, the Latin@ Graduate Student Association has been reactivated this year.

Compartiendo

Marta Beatriz Urquilla (T'93) is Policy Director at The Praxis Project (www.thepraxisproject.org), a health justice organization in Washington, DC. She focuses on local policy advocacy initiatives to improve health outcomes for low income communities and communities of color. Marta and her husband Jomo Graham are looking forward to celebrating the first birthday of their daughter Luz Antonia.

M. Alicia Overstreet Galeano (T '98) works with the Children's Environmental Health Initiative (www.nicholas.duke.edu/cehi) at the Nicholas School of the Environment at Duke where she has been for 9 years. She is Data Manager for the group and also works on international projects. In addition, she is in her second year of medical school at the UNC School of Medicine.

Kimberly Reyes (T '03) is currently working at Duke University in the Undergraduate Admissions Office. She reads applications for Southern California, Washington, Montana, Wyoming, and Puerto Rico, as well as serving as the Coordinator of Latino Student Recruitment.

Come back to Duke University and make plans now to join us for reunion weekend March 27th - 29th, 2009. We encourage you to make your hotel reservations today at the Washington Duke Inn or the Durham Hilton. If you would like to read our constitution, become an active member, or learn more about our activities, please visit www.dulaa.org or our page on [Facebook](#). You can also contact DULAA at emailDULAA@gmail.com.

¡Hasta Pronto!