

Cornell University

Latino Studies Program

434 Rockefeller Hall  
Ithaca, New York 14853-4203  
t. 607.255.3197  
f. 607.255.2433

October 7, 2009

Dear Cornell Latino Alumni,

Greetings! I hope this letter finds our Cornell Latino Alumni community in good spirits and good health. The Latino Studies Program is off to another exciting year. We have seen incredible expansion with an increase in student participation, the number of course offerings and enrollments, and students registering for the minor. The expansion is the result of student commitment to Latino Studies and their willingness to use their strong voices in advocating for LSP's unique contributions and rightful place at Cornell University.

The program has some wonderful upcoming events. For example our very popular, Friday with Faculty luncheon series is now in its sixth year, and we have launched "Cafe con Libros," a reading group dedicated to the discussion/analysis of Latina/o thought and Literature. The Latino Studies Unity Dinner is now in its 17th year; and we are in the early stages of creating a seminar series that will include graduate students presenting works in progress, faculty discussion of current research and invited outside speakers. The Latino Studies library/resource center/computer lab continues to grow. The center has an extensive collection of books and videos. The resource center is a viable resource for students, student organizations, and faculty.

Our hope for the future is to strengthen the connections between the LSP and Latino Alumni. First, we hope to support the invaluable mentorship, networking and intellectual and social engagement between current students, alumni and faculty. Current student leaders like Sasha Lopez '10 Alumni Liaison for La Asociación Latina in conversations with Renee Alexander, Director of Alumni Affairs Minority Programs at Cornell and Marti Dense, Program Administrator for the LSP, are very enthusiastic about spending time with alumni. Sasha and her peers feel they truly benefit from having alumni share their experiences about navigating college, volunteering, applying to graduate schools and internships, or joining the workforce.

Second, we hope to build a donor base that will endow faculty positions and fund internships, scholarships and research grants. Our specific needs also include by-line funding for the Latino Student organizations and Latino Living Center programming and resources.

The Latino Studies Program also has big dreams. We hope to be able to endow and institutionalize a yearly lecture, and in the future to endow a faculty member in Latino Studies. In our continued efforts to make the Latino Studies Program an intellectually vibrant one, we hope to increase academic programming that is wide reaching and to become a center for sponsored research opportunities.

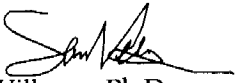
Your financial assistance, even in small amounts, will be extremely helpful. We hope to have your support at various upcoming outreach and fundraising initiatives. We welcome your suggestions. For more information on how to give please visit <http://latino.lsp.cornell.edu/donate.asp>.

In the meantime, we hope to see you at this year's Unity event that marks Latino Heritage Month, scheduled for Friday, October 16. It is attended by more than 225 students, faculty, alums, and staff from the Cornell and surrounding community. One last note, we hope to see many of you during the Latino Reunion Weekend 2010.

On behalf of the Latino Studies Program have a nice fall season and we look forward to working with many of you.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions and suggestions and we look forward to another successful year.

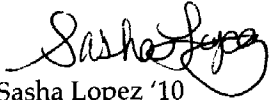
Sincerely,



Sofia Villenas, Ph.D.  
Director, Latino Studies Program  
Associate Professor of Education and the Latino Studies Program  
Coordinator, Learning, Teaching & Social Policy  
The Department of Education at Cornell University  
Email: sav33@cornell.edu



Marti Dense  
Program Administrator  
Latino Studies Program  
Email: mfd1@cornell.edu



Sasha Lopez '10  
LAL Alumni Liaison  
College of Arts & Sciences  
Email: sml67@cornell.edu