Sixth Annual Noche de Gala Celebrates 20 Years of the Latino Center

On Friday, October 11, over 100 faculty, staff, and students gathered in the Regency Room to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the construction of the Latino Center. The celebration featured remarks by Chief Diversity Officer Vernese Edghill-Walden and General Counsel Bryan Perry and honored retired director of the Center for Latino and Latin American Studies, Dr. Michael J. Gonzáles (HIST), and retired director of the Latino Resource Center, Dr. George Gutiérrez. Also recognized during the program were various Latinx student organizations and faculty, including Dr. Christina D. Abreu, Director of CLLAS, who was voted "Faculty of the Year" by members of Latinx student organizations. Music and dancing followed the formal program, and a wonderful time was had by all who attended. Faculty and staff of the Latino Center look forward to serving the NIU Latinx community for another twenty years! This is your "home away from home!"
CLLAS' Second Invited Lecture Centered on Venezuela's Crisis

CLLAS' second invited lecture took place on October 2 at the Latino Center. It featured the research of Dr. Alejandro Velasco, Associate Professor of History at New York University. His talk offered an analysis of the origins and legacies of the economic, social, and political crises faced by Venezuela throughout the twentieth century. Thank you to the faculty and students who packed the room, to our fabulous Huskie Service Scholars who helped with logistics for the event, and to SACNAS (Society for Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science) who cleverly hosted a fundraiser before and after the event (the conchas and horchata were a plus!).

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**Images:**
- Group photo of attendees and speakers.
- Dr. Alejandro Velasco giving a presentation.
- Interior view of the Latino Center.
- Mural with cultural symbols.
- Fundraiser setup with food and drinks.
CLLAS Receives NIU 125th Anniversary Grant

The Center for Latino and Latin American Studies recently learned that it has been awarded a $2,500 125th Anniversary Grant for the project “Somos Huskies: Latinx Students in the 1970s and 1980s.” The selection committee received more than two dozen applications for projects related to the anniversary celebration. Under the direction of Dr. Abreu, “Somos Huskies” will use oral history methods to document the stories and experiences of Latinx alumni who were enrolled at NIU in the 1970s and 1980s. Please contact Dr. Abreu (cabreu@niu.edu) if you are interested in participating in the project or know Latinx alumni who might want to be a part of "Somos Huskies."

FACULTY NEWS

Mandy Faretta-Stutenberg (SPAN) and three other colleagues published an article titled "Contributions of Declarative and Procedural Memory to Accuracy and Automization during Second Language Practice" in a recent issue of Bilingualism: Language and Cognition. The paper examines the role of individual differences in memory during the acquisition of an artificial second language. Next month, Faretta-Stutenberg will be traveling to Georgetown University to give an invited lecture on neurocognition of second language acquisition. Congratulations, Dr. Faretta-Stutenberg!

STUDENT NEWS

LATS Minor of the Month - Antonio Torres

Antonio Torres is a first-year student majoring in History and minoring in Latino and Latin American Studies. This year, he is working alongside Dr. Simón Weffer (SOCI) as a Research Rookie, a program sponsored by the Office of Student Engagement and Experiential Learning that allows students to develop small-scale research projects with the support of a faculty mentor. Antonio is working on a project centered on identifying and detailing the accomplishments of Latino Medal of Honor recipients. So far, his research has focused on Latino soldiers, who earned the Medal of Honor during the U.S. Civil War.
Latinx Oral History Project Travels to Galesburg to Interview Documentary Filmmaker

"I wasn't a hippie. I was a good Mexican girl. I didn't want to get deported." These are the words that Luz Nuncio Schick shared with Dr. Abreu and LATS minor Sheila Martínez when discussing growing up in Chicago during the turbulence of the 1960s and 1970s. Abreu and Martínez visited with Schick and her husband, Will, one afternoon in late September to learn more about Luz's life and the couple's interest and role in writing and producing a documentary on Mexican railroad workers and their families in Galesburg, Illinois in the first few decades of the twentieth century. The documentary, titled Boxcar People, aired on WTPV public television in central Illinois and is also available for purchase. Funding for travel to Galesburg was made available by Dr. Abreu's 2019 READ Grant.

NIU Capoeira Club Invites Community Members to Join Weekly Meetings

The NIU Capoeira Club was founded in Fall 2018. The club organizes courses, lectures, debates, educational workshops, and expositions around Afro-Latino cultural expression. Capoeira is an Afro-Brazilian martial art that combines elements of dance, acrobatics, and music. Enslaved Africans in Brazil developed Capoeira at the beginning of the 16th century as a symbol of colonial resistance. Capoeira emphasizes a non-contact martial artform through harmony and flow. The club meets every Thursday between 5:30-7PM in the Chick Evans Field House - Studio 112. No experience necessary. All are invited to attend.
UPCOMING EVENTS

Latinx Community Art Project
Thu 10/31 - 12PM
Latino Center, Student Lounge

and

Latinx Community Art Project
Mon 11/11 - 7PM
Stevenson Multipurpose Room

Open to all students. Art supplies will be provided.

*Invited Lecture
"Latin Hip Hop as the New Poetry"
Catalina Maria Johnson, Ph.D.
Wed 11/6 - 5PM
Latino Center, Room 121

CLLAS Treinta y Tres Conference
"Language, Literature, and Literacy"
Fri 11/15 - 9:30AM - 4PM
Latino Center, Room 121
Register at: Treintaytres.eventbrite.com

For more information, contact us at 815-753-1531.
To request disability related accommodations, contact the Disability Resource Center at 815-753-1303 as early as possible.