SECOND ANNUAL CONFERENCE
CENTER FOR LATINO AND LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES
NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

NOVEMBER 15, 2019
9:30 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.
LATINO CENTER

CENTER NEWS

Second Annual Treinta y Tres Conference: Language, Literature, and Literacy

CLLAS hosted its second annual conference - *Treinta y Tres* - on Friday, November 15. The conference, which centered on the themes of language, literature, and literacy, featured research presentations by three NIU faculty and two NIU graduate students. The all-day conference ended with a wonderful musical performance by Mexican jazz pianist and writer, Alex Mercado. Many thanks to all our faculty and graduate student participants - *Mayra Daniel* (EDUC), *James Cohen* (EDUC), *Mandy Faretta-Stutenberg* (SPAN), *Francisco Solares* (SPAN), *Anne Hanley* (HIST), *Rodrigo Villanueva* (MUSC), *Alexander Lundberg* (HIST), and *Lia Sánchez* (SPAN) - for making this annual tradition such an inspiring showcase of the Latino and Latin American Studies research and artistry on our campus!
CLLAS' Third Invited Lecture Focused on Latin Hip Hop as the New Poetry

CLLAS' third invited lecture took place on Nov. 6 at the Latino Center. Catalina Maria Johnson, Ph.D., a Chicago-based music journalist and international radio broadcaster, delivered her talk - "Flor y Canto: Latin Hip Hop as the New Poetry" - to a packed house. Dr. Johnson argued that contemporary Latinx hip hop artists, such as Olmeca and Ana Tijoux, should also be embraced and celebrated as poets. Her talk was sponsored by the Illinois Humanities Road Scholars Program. Thank you to all the faculty, staff, and students that joined us this semester for our Invited Lectures. We have another fantastic slate of guests set to share their research with the CLLAS community in the Spring!

World Languages and Cultures Hosts Invited Talk on "Negotiating Foreignness in the Port City of Cartagena de Indias"

On Oct. 30, the Department of World Languages and Cultures, with support from The Graduate Colloquium and CLLAS, hosted a lecture by Dr. Mariselle Meléndez, Professor of Spanish and Department Chair at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Dr. Meléndez's talk was entitled "Negotiating Foreignness in the Port City of Cartagena de Indias: Between Rumors, Lies, and Secret Encounters." The well-attended event was organized by CLLAS Faculty Associate Francisco Solares (SPAN).
CLLAS Welcomes Two New Faculty Associates

Dana Bardolph (ANTH) is a first-year Assistant Professor of Anthropology, who joins NIU after spending two years as a postdoctoral fellow at the Cornell Institute for Archaeology and Material Sciences. Her research interests broadly revolve around the relationships between foodways and sociopolitical complexity, migration and colonialism, gender roles, and labor in New World agricultural societies. She employs a comparative, cross-cultural approach and has conducted field and laboratory research in multiple regions, including Peru, Mexico, and the Caribbean, as well as west-central Illinois (the area of her current field project). Welcome, Dr. Bardolph!

Ricela Feliciano-Semidei (MATH) is a first-year Assistant Professor of Mathematical Sciences. She earned her Ph.D. in Mathematics, with an emphasis in Education, from the University of Montana in 2019. As a researcher, she is interested in learning how to better serve diverse communities, including Latinx students in Illinois. She is also working with students in a rural region in Colombia to understand how the use of relevant cultural experiences for teaching impacts students' learning. Welcome, Dr. Feliciano-Semidei!

FACULTY NEWS

Christina D. Abreu (Director of CLLAS and HIST) secured an advance contract with the University of Illinois Press for her second book, *Patria over Profits: The Story of Afro-Cuban Boxer Teófilo Stevenson*.

Gregory Beyer (MUSC) has been selected as one of the recipients of the 2019 Distinguished Graduate Faculty Award. He will be honored at the December commencement ceremony.

David G. Embrick, Simón Weffer (SOCI), and Silvia Domínguez were presented with the "Outstanding Published Paper" award by the Southwestern Sociological Association for their paper "White Sanctuaries: Race and Place in Art Museums." The paper was published in September 2019 in the *International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy*.

Beatrix Hoffman (HIST) was quoted in a recent *Time* magazine article about the fight for Medicare for All.

STUDENT NEWS

LATS Minor of the Month - Cristina Bravo

Cristina Bravo is a second-year Spanish and Hispanic Studies major and Latino and Latin American Studies minor. Her essay, "El Son de la Negra," won second place in the Mae Thomas Award for Excellence in First-Year Composition Competition, which is sponsored by the NIU Department of English. Because of this selection, Cristina was awarded a scholarship, and her piece was published in *Contemporary Voices*, an annual volume that features the writings of NIU students. Cristina first drafted "El Son de la Negra" in her ENGL 103 course, and it describes her culture and love for dancing.
Cor Cantiamo Features NIU Latinx Oral History Project, World Premiere of "Verdad"

On Sunday, November 3, Cor Cantiamo, a professional choir directed by NIU professor Eric A. Johnson, debuted "Verdad," a new work by composer Libby Larsen. The piece is based on first-person accounts of migrant families and the poetry of Chilean writer Gabriela Mistral. Larsen drew inspiration for the piece from many of the interviews collected in the NIU Latinx Oral History Project, which she got the chance to examine when she visited the Center last February. Larsen was deeply moved by the words and emotions in the interviews: "Though each person's story is unique, I recognized common themes and I drew inspiration from them. I felt strongly that regardless of the age of the person being interviewed, at the center of each of their stories is 'the child,' caught up in the story's past and its future while living vividly in the present." Much of this is conveyed in the piece's chorus: "Es verdad, no es un cuento; Es verdad - it's true, no es un cuento; - it isn't a story; hay un Ángel Guardian que te toma - who takes you, y te lleva - and carries you, come el viento - like the wind y con los niños va por donde van; and goes with the children wherever they go."

Featured Student Organization: Latino Student Alliance (LSA)
The Latino Student Alliance (LSA) was established to advocate for and unify the Latinx community at NIU. LSA promotes degree completion and tries to increase community involvement both on campus and within the surrounding areas. LSA's three main pillars are unification, academics, and community service; the organization also values involvement, leadership, cultural awareness, and social interaction. Members of LSA use their ties to other organizations to develop common goals of success and progress while holding true to their motto: “Por nuestra comunidad y gente (For our community and people).” If you are looking to be more involved, LSA executive board meetings take place on Mondays from 5-6pm and general board meetings take place bi-weekly on Mondays from 6-7pm at the Latino Center.
UPCOMING EVENTS

Retirement Celebration! for CLLAS Office Manager, Ann Nelson

Wed 12/11 - 2PM
Latino Center Atrium

Please join us in thanking Ann for her many years of service!

Spring 2020 Invited Lectures

"Spanish Is Not Spoken Here": Confronting White Supremacist Ideologies of Language through Social Media Activism"

Dr. Lourdes Torres
DePaul University

Wed 2/12 - 5PM
Latino Center, Room 121
*Business Passport Approved

"Policing Life and Death: Race, Violence, and Resistance in Puerto Rico"

Dr. Marisol LeBrón
University of Texas at Austin

Thurs 3/19 - 5PM
Latino Center, Room 121
*Business Passport Approved