



15th Annual Pa'Lante Conference

For the past 15 years, the Pa'Lante Conference has promoted a critical dialogue on the themes, realities, and histories of the Puerto Rican people, both those residing on the Island and in the Diaspora. The annual event is sponsored by the Union for Puerto Rican Students (UPRS) and attracts students, faculty, professionals and activists from throughout the Midwest and beyond. In addition to the hundreds of UIC students that attend, the event welcomes individuals from various universities, including the University of Chicago, Northeastern Illinois University, DePaul, Columbia University, and the City Colleges of Chicago. The conference also serves as a bridge for



local high school students interested in pursuing higher education. These youth have an opportunity to participate and engage in the critical discussions as a dynamic introduction to university life.

This year's 2009 Pa'Lante Conference will take place at UIC from March 30 – April 3, 2009. The events and discussions will examine Puerto Rican educational realities from various angles. In efforts to gain a broader understanding, Pa'Lante will feature a panel discussing research on the experiences of Puerto Rican

youth in Chicago high schools. It will feature Enid Rosario, PhD candidate in the Learning Sciences at Northwestern University; Jonathan Rosa, PhD candidate in Linguistic Anthropology at the University of Chicago; and Sonia Oliva, PhD candidate in Sociology at UIC. Furthermore, the Pa'Lante conference will be featuring the newly released film, *Chicago's Puerto Rican Story*. This film provides an inspiring portrait of the Puerto Rican experience in Chicago. It explores the early years of migration, settlement, and struggles as it sheds light to significant events that have helped shape political awareness among Chicago's Puerto Rican community. **(continued on pg. 2)**

Future Leaders in Education

The Latino/a Educators United for Change, Higher Education, and Action (LUCHA) is a newly formed organization for education students at UIC. It was formed to serve the interests of Latino education students by creating a much needed network for future teachers and educators. The members are committed to serving all students, particularly those from urban, low income, and underserved Latino communities. The organization aims to foster



learning opportunities for Latino/a students in the schools through active engagement, community and youth outreach, and culturally and community relevant educational practices.

The students feel it is necessary to strengthen the pipeline of Latinos entering the field of teaching and

education administration who are committed to serving the schools in our communities. LUCHA's mission is to create a community of leaders in education to advocate and teach for social change. Furthermore, it strives in helping students to view themselves as agents of change through their active participation in local and national issues that affect them and their communities.

If students are interested in joining, please contact Joel Muñoz at jmunoz22@uic.edu.

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The Best of Times & The Worst of Times

As education not only takes place within classrooms, Pa'Lante will also return to two social movements that have taught the Puerto Rican community many valuable lessons. The conference will feature talks by former Puerto Rican political prisoners Ida Luz Rodríguez and Luis Rosa. In addition, Dr. Deborah Santana and Ramon Bosque will present on the Vieques movement and struggles over civil and human rights in the Puerto Rican context, respectively.

Pa'Lante also involves culture, music and art as great sources of education. The conference will feature musical presentations by Puerto Rican hip-hop performer SieteNueve and PlenaSon, a group specializing in a variety of Puerto Rican musical forms. The conference will feature a theoretical presentation, "Crime Against Humanity", by poet and activist Michael Reyes and

former political prisoner Luis Rosa. This production brings to light the realities of prison victimization and brutality and how these prisoners were able to maintain their dignity.

The Pa'Lante Conference will provide our entire campus community with an exciting opportunity to further expand our understanding of the intersections between community, Diaspora, and national identity. Furthermore, it is our intention to explore the role of culture and creativity in the process of Puerto Rican/Latino community-building. This conference is strengthened by its multifaceted and multidisciplinary approach, as academics, professionals, cultural workers, and even community leaders and activists will make presentations. We invite you to join us for another vibrant Pa'Lante Conference in 2009!

- *Union for Puerto Rican Students*

This is truly the dawn of what promises to be a memorable era. But despite the optimism that the recent elections have engendered, it is also a worrisome period. We began the year with the inauguration of the first African American President. Barak Obama, however, takes office inheriting two unpopular and what many believe to be two unjust and unwinnable wars. On the domestic front the President is faced with one of the worst economic downturns in US history since the Great Depression. Latinos wonder whether their issues such as education and comprehensive immigration reform will be addressed. The importance that the Latino agenda will have for this administration is the theme of the Illinois Latino Council on Higher Education's Seventeenth Annual Conference that will take place on March 20 at DePaul University (see the ILACHE website for registration information, <http://www.ilache.com/page5.html>). This is an opportunity for

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Save the Dates !



17th Annual Conference: Latino Education Summit

Friday, March 20, 2009

9 am - 3pm

**Depaul University
Student Center, Room 120
2250 N. Sheffield Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60614**

The conference includes policy-focused panels, professional development workshops and forums that promote discussion and networking opportunities for educators and students. Don't miss the opportunity to network with your peers and discuss important issues around education.

For more information please visit:

www.ilache.com



**African American & Latino Research Forum:
Building a Community of Scholars**

Co-Sponsored by

The Illinois African American and Latino Higher Education Alliance (IALHEA)

Supported by an Illinois Board of Higher Education HECA Grant

Friday, April 3, 2009

(Abstracts due: Friday, March 20, 2009)

**University of Illinois at Chicago Forum
750 South Halsted
Chicago, IL 60607**

If you have questions, please contact José Perales, or Francisco Piña at (312) 413-2559 or gradinfo@uic.edu.

Twenty-Third Annual Recognition Dinner for Latino Graduates

The Latino Committee on University Affairs (LCUA) promotes the development of educational, professional and career opportunities for all Latinos at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). Since LCUA's inception, the committee has established several annual events to fulfill the needs and recognize the accomplishments of UIC's Latino community.

One of the most celebrated events organized by LCUA is the annual



Recognition Dinner for Latino Graduates. The event provides a special opportunity for all graduates to celebrate their achievements together with their families and friends. At the event, each graduate receives a certificate of achievement and has the opportunity to say a few words of appreciation.

On Friday, May 8, 2009, UIC & LCUA will proudly celebrate the Twenty-third Annual Recognition Dinner for Latino Graduates. The event will be held at the Chicago Hyatt Regency located at 151 East Wacker Drive from

6:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.

LCUA encourages all Summer 2008, Fall 2008, and Spring 2009 Latino graduates to participate in the celebration. Each graduate will receive two complimentary tickets, one for themselves and another for a family member or guest. Additional tickets can be purchased and will be available for pick up and/or purchase beginning in March at the LARES program office. Please contact Maria Ramos at 312-996-3356 for details or if you have any questions.

The Best of Times and the Worst of Times...(from pg. 2)

Latino students and educators to voice their concerns, which will be submitted to Barak Obama, Latino Congressional legislators, and Latino policy organizations.

The economic crisis is affecting us all. It will most probably lead to shrinking college budgets, increasing higher education costs, and further belt tightening, which has already resulted here at UIC in layoffs, hiring freezes and the potential closing of service centers, including a UIC health facility that addresses the medical needs of Latinas from Chicago's Pilsen community. In February, a town hall informational sponsored by the UIC administration was called to discuss the campus' situation. Concerned members of the UIC community continue to call meetings to discuss campus priorities and assess the impact that budget cuts will have on the quality of education and the well being of various sectors of the campus community. U.I.C.A.B.C. Coalition (United In Campaign Against Budget Cuts) and UIC's student government are among various constituent groups sponsoring forums and other activities. The upcoming Pa'Lante Conference that will take place from March 30 to April 3 will also undoubtedly touch on

issues important to UIC and other college students.

The Illinois African American and Latino Higher Education Alliance (IALHEA), the coalition that includes the Illinois Committee for Black Concerns in Higher Education (ICBCHE) and the Illinois Latino Council on Higher Education (ILACHE), will host several conferences focused on critical policy issues. The annual Black and Latino Dialogue, which seeks to create a Black/Latino alliance rooted in a progressive educational action, will premier on the morning of April 3, *Storming the Gates: The Struggle for Access to Higher Education in Illinois*, the first in what is hoped will be a series documenting the history of Blacks and Latinos in higher education in the state of Illinois (registration information will soon be available on the IALHEA website <http://www.ialhea.org/conferences2.html>). The Black and Latino Student Research Forum will take place that afternoon and is an opportunity for African Americans, Latinos and Native American graduate and undergraduates to present their research (for registration information <http://www.ialhea.org/forum.html>). Many of these student projects are often fo-

cused on topics that address issues of race, gender, sexual identity and social justice.

On Saturday April 25, the Youth and Social Justice Coalition, also an IALHEA initiative, will sponsor a full day of workshops with high school youth, college representatives, and social justice performers and community activists to discuss issues such as the current threats to public education. As many of you know, plans to expand alternatives to local public schools have met with much criticism and resistance by some African American and Latino parents, students and teachers despite Barak Obama's support for the expansion of charter schools (for registration information <https://illinois.edu/formBuilder/Secure?id=3042419>). The issues that confront our community on many fronts are not simple and debate will certainly be heated. However, the times and its challenges offer youth many venues for participation and opportunities for leadership.

- Leonard Ramirez

LARES Program



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO

Latin American Recruitment and Educational Services Program (LARES)
Student Services Building, Suite 2640
1200 West Harrison Street
Chicago, Illinois 60607

Phone: 312-996-3356
Fax: 312-413-2903

Check us out on the web!
<http://www.lares.uic.edu>

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Summer 2009 (8-week session calendar)

June 9, Tue.	CampusCare deadline to waive health insurance fee.
June 15, Mon.	Instruction begins.
June 15, Mon.	Last day to cancel registration for the 8-week session with 100% refund of tuition & fees.
June 19, Fri.	Last day to complete late registration for the 8-week session; last day to drop or add a course online or make changes for the 8-week session; last day to drop a course via the Student Self Service system without receiving a "W" (withdraw) grade on academic record for the 8-week session.
July 3, Fri.	Independence Day Holiday Observed. No classes scheduled.
July 17, Fri.	Last day for undergraduate students to use optional late drop with college approval and receive a "W" on their academic record.
August 5, Wed.	Instruction ends.
August 6-7, Th. - Fri.	Final Exams.
August 7, Thurs.	8-week summer semester officially ends.
August 24, Mon.	Fall 2009 semester instruction begins. First day of school !!!

