



# LARES Newsletter

SPRING ISSUE

MARCH 2010

## Thinking about studying abroad?

This past semester I learned that Spain is so much more than just bull fighting, flamenco, and sangria. Last fall, I had the amazing opportunity to experience the country first hand when I studied abroad in Bilbao, Spain. Its cuisine – *pintxos*, its language – *euskadi*, and its sports – *pelota*, were just a few of the many characteristics that truly set Spain apart from other places I have traveled to. Living in Spain for a few months and delving into its culture was an experience that I will never forget.



I took advantage of studying abroad not only to travel somewhere I have never been to, but more specifically for the academic and professional benefits. I really wanted to compliment my undergraduate

experience here at UIC, and further develop my professional skills; so I knew that living in Spain would definitely help. Studying abroad provided many benefits such as improving my Spanish speaking skills, offered the opportunity to study Spanish literature and European law, and still allowed me to fulfill degree requirements for my major. In addition, the program I participated in offered a great internship program with the Office of International Relations which provided invaluable work experience. I can honestly say that the last few months were extremely fulfilling for numerous reasons. The friendly people, amazing sights, great food, and incredible culture were among the many things that made this experience definitely worthwhile. Looking back, I am glad that I

followed through with my plans of studying abroad.

The program I decided on was at the University of Deusto in the City of Bilbao. The idea of studying there was in part from some of the conversations I had with one of my professor's here at UIC. She told me about her experience as an undergraduate student in Spain and suggested that I at least look into it. With the guidance from the staff at the Study Abroad Office (SAO) here at UIC, I obtained general information regarding study abroad opportunities for students. From that moment on, I conducted a lot of research on my own regarding study abroad programs and I became certain that this was an opportunity I could not pass up. After learning about the entire process and benefits of studying abroad, I met

**(continued on pg. 2)**

## My educational journey

When I began my educational journey here at UIC in the fall of 2008, I had a general idea of what I wanted to accomplish. Conversations with my peers and high school teachers helped a bit, but it was really the inspiration that I obtained through the LARES program where my educational mission was set. The support, encouragement and advice that I have received so far has set the

bar for my education and has motivated me to accomplish many things here as an undergraduate.

Thus far, one of the more joyful days for me was graduating in 2008 from Kelly High School on the southwest side of Chicago. Although graduation was a gratifying day for me, I was also very disappointed to observe that not all of the students from my freshman year were there. As I

walked across the stage to receive my diploma, I contemplated on why so many of my classmates were missing. Unfortunately, I have come to learn that it is extremely complex to even attempt to answer this question. However, I do know it is a constant struggle to overcome the massive barriers placed before us as young students. Particularly, the obstacles that students have

**(continued on pg. 2)**

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

GRADUATE  
DINNER PG. 3

TUTORING  
SERVICES PG. 3

CAREER  
FAIRS PG. 3

SUMMER  
SESSION PG. 4

## My educational journey (continued from pg. 1)

to overcome who are attempting to be the first ones in their family to go on to college and graduate like me. Undoubtedly, many fall victim in their attempts to steer through the groves of adversity in order to continue their education. That is why I believe that support networks like LARES are vital for a student's survival. With this being my fourth semester at UIC, I have realized the challenges that remain ahead. Although, I am thankful that I am not alone as I attempt to overcome them with the support that LARES offers.

My continued drive to pursue a higher education has been fueled by my desire to avoid being in a similar situation that my parent's have been in all of their lives. Working in labor intensive environments, coupled with very long hours each day of the week for minimal wages has constrained them to have



limited opportunities. Even though they did not have the chance to attend college, their expectations for a better life for me have been instilled. Therefore, everyday I step foot on campus I am determined to embrace the opportunity of attending college and apply the best of my abilities in order to become more educated. Now that I have found a path early on here at UIC, I look forward to completing my degree in accounting.

Even though it has been quite challenging, I am very determined to finish. My ultimate goal is to graduate from college, continue into graduate school, and obtain the certification to become a Certified Public Accountant (CPA).

As so few Latinos graduate from college, I believe that it is critical for us that are here at UIC to grasp the opportunity and succeed in our academic

endeavors. We represent our communities, and so for us to progress we must advance the educational attainment among us. As we become more educated, the negative stereotypes will elude our people and more opportunities will evolve. I would like to challenge and encourage everyone in high school to not only think about college, but pursue their dreams and aspire to obtain a higher education. By overcoming the obstacles that many think are impossible we can achieve many things. In addition, understanding that someone out there is willing to help, such as LARES at UIC, becoming successful is truly within reach.

- Laura K. Zamudio

Sophomore, College of Business Administration

Accounting major

## Thinking about studying abroad? (continued from pg. 1)

with my LARES counselor to discuss the opportunity. Soon after, I followed up with the SAO office and everything else pretty much fell into place.

The application for studying abroad had its fair share of paper work, but it was very manageable. From my entire experience, I would highly recommend to anyone who may be interested in studying abroad to begin the search process and application as early as possible. The most important and time-consuming part is definitely identifying a program. My advice to all students is to take time to conduct research on several programs and

contact them directly if possible. In addition, everyone should get connected with an adviser in the Study Abroad Office as they will help you identify the many avenues that exist for funding a trip. I would also suggest to everyone to save early and save often, in addition to pursuing the available resources which include loans, scholarships and financial aid.

Unfortunately, I learned that few students study abroad because of the myths that students hear – I believe around 2-3% of undergraduates take advantage of studying abroad each year at UIC. I do not know if this is because of lack of interest or lack of funding.

Whatever the case may be I would highly recommend that students think about studying abroad and minimally obtain some general information on the opportunities that are available. The experience will add value and significantly compliment their overall college experience. Take me for instance, I never imagined myself studying abroad a few years ago, but I am glad I took a chance and pursued the opportunity. The entire experience was extremely fulfilling and it taught me many things.

- Alejandro Espinoza

Senior, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Economics and Spanish Major



## Twenty-Fourth 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 events to fulfill the needs and recognize the accomplishments of UIC's Latino community.

The annual Recognition Dinner for Latino Graduates is a special event that



provides an opportunity for all graduates to celebrate their achievements together with 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 7, 2010, UIC & LCUA will proudly celebrate the Twenty-Fourth 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 2009, Fall 2009, and Spring 2010 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 (LCUA Graduate Assistant) at 312-996-3356 or mramos4@uic.edu for details.

## Sign up for tutoring services next semester !

### C.L.A.S. Tutoring - Room 476 SCE

Monday - Friday 10:00am - 5:00pm

Phone: 312-355-5185

Tutors available for:

*Math 070 through Math 320*

*Biology 100 and 101*

*Chemistry 100, 101, 112, 114*

*French 101 - 104*

*Spanish 101 - 114*

*Stats 101 and 381*

### Honor's College Tutoring

Burnham Hall Room 220

For more info log on to:

[www.hc.uic.edu/tutoring/tutorintro.htm](http://www.hc.uic.edu/tutoring/tutorintro.htm)



### English Composition

The UIC Writing Center: 312 413-2206

Douglas Hall (DH) - Room 100

<http://www.uic.edu/depts/engl/writing>

LARES English Composition Tutor:

Mitzi Ramos

By appointment only: 312-996-3356

### Math

LARES Math Tutor: Terry Mankus

E-mail: [tmanku1@uic.edu](mailto:tmanku1@uic.edu)

Call the LARES program at 312-996-3356 for his office hours.

## Looking for a career opportunity? Need advice on selecting a major?

### Education Job Fair

Thursday, March 4, 2010

Student Services Building

(SSB Conference Rooms)

1:00pm - 5:00pm

[www.educationjobfair.ocs.uic.edu](http://www.educationjobfair.ocs.uic.edu)

(check us out on-line for up-to-date info on employers that will be attending)

### Spring Diversity Career Fair

Thursday, March 18, 2010

Student Center East, SCE - Illinois Room

10:00am - 2:30pm

[www.springdiversityfair.ocs.uic.edu](http://www.springdiversityfair.ocs.uic.edu)

(check on-line for up-to-date info on employers that will be attending)

### Major Expo

Tuesday, April 6, 2010

1:00pm -3:00pm

Student Services Building (Conference Rooms)

### Major Choice Workshop

Thursday, April 15, 2010

1:00pm - 3:00pm

Student Services Building (conference room A)



### For career advice contact:

**Office of Career Services (OCS)**

**Student Services Building (SSB)**

**Room 3050**

**1200 W. Harrison Street**

**312-996-2300**

**Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM**

Some of our Services:

- Resume assistance
- Interviewing tips
- Career Fairs
- One-on-one career advising
- Job postings

# UIC UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO

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

Phone: 312-996-3356

Fax: 312-413-2903

Nonprofit Org.

U.S. Postage

**PAID**

Chicago, IL

Permit No. 4860

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

## Summer 2010 (8-week session calendar)

June 9, Tue.	CampusCare deadline to waive health insurance fee.
June 14, Mon.	Instruction begins.
June 14, Mon.	Last day to cancel registration for the 8-week session with 100% refund of tuition & fees.
June 18, Fri.	Last day to complete late registration for the 8-week session; last day to drop or add a course online or make schedule 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 5, Mon.	Independence Day Holiday Observed. No classes scheduled.
July 16, Fri.	Last day for undergraduate students to use optional late drop with college approval and receive a "W" on their academic record.
August 4, Wed.	Instruction ends.
August 5-6, Th. - Fri.	<b>Final Exams.</b>
August 6, Fri.	8-week summer semester officially ends.
August 16, Mon.	Grades available for 8-week summer session.
August 23, Mon.	Fall 2010 semester begins. First day of school !!!

