

University of Wisconsin

# CHICAN@ LATIN@ STUDIES NEWSLETTER

FALL 2022 | VOL 20 | ISSUE 1

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## NOTE FROM DIRECTOR, DR. RUBÉN MEDINA

Building the Chican@ & Latin@ Studies Program (CLS) is an ongoing process that cannot be limited to a plan for three, five, ten years. Our own history (1492, 1525, and 1848) has been marked by continued struggles, commitment, changing strategies, new leadership, and looking ahead to a futurity. And that is, because in the present—rewording José Esteban Muñoz on queer identity—we only have glimpses of a truly democratic, multiracial, and multilingual society. Bottom line: CLS cannot simply survive or remain as it is and be complacent about what we have achieved on this campus. We owe the faculty, students, and staff who came before us and those yet to come to continue this effort to build such a future.



At CLS we understand this condition. That's why, at the end of fall, we finally submitted the Authorization/implementation proposal for a CLS Major. At the time of this writing, the proposal has passed the Curriculum Committee and the Academic Planning Council of the College of Letters and Science, and is headed for further review. The students, community members, and Professors who first demanded a Chicano Studies Program back in the mid-1970s always hoped to create such a major, and we are proud to be so close to achieving their vision. This current effort is the culmination of constant, collective, and systematic work at CLS during the last five years. We should thank Armando Ibarra who, first as Director and then as chair of the Curriculum Committee, did so much to make this possible. And while we're at it, we should also take a moment to appreciate the efforts of our supporters in the College of Letters & Science, including Associate Deans Elaine Klein and Greg Downey, and Dean Eric Wilcots. As the proposal works its way to the Board of Regents, we will be getting ready to implement the major in fall 2023. We fully expect (ojalá) to sign up our first majors then, and we will inform you all as this important initiative moves forward.

As we move forward with the academic program, the CLS community keeps growing, and that's how things should be. After graduating a record class of more than fifty Certificate students in 2022, we expect as many as eighty in May 2023. Enrollments in our classes and in the Certificate are healthy. Our faculty is growing too. This fall we welcomed new Assistant Professor, Aurora Santiago-Ortiz, with a combined appointment between Gender and Women Studies (GWS) and CLS. She has been teaching CHICLA 330 ("Feminist Movements Across the Americas"), and CHICLA 332: ("Latinas: Self-Identity and Social Change"). Both courses were offered jointly with GWS. We also welcomed two new Assistant Professors, Jorell Meléndez-Badillo (History) and Chris Saldaña (Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis), as affiliates this fall. Dr. Meléndez's expertise on the history of Puerto Rico fills a big need for our program, as will Dr. Saldaña's expertise on school finance and minoritized communities.



This fall, for the second year, **Falina Enriquez** and **Kate Vieira** offered a workshop on publishing the first book to junior faculty, as part of the efforts of the Faculty Development Committee (chaired by **Mariana Pacheco**) to help junior faculty to achieve tenure. Several of our junior faculty have been participating in the First Book group, which will continue next semester.

Our program has also expanded its participation in the intellectual life of the University. This Fall, CLS, under the leadership of Prof. **Theresa Delgadillo**, we kicked-off the new speaker series, entitled **Chican@ & Latin@ Studies Today**. In September, we held the panel “Sustainability and Placemaking in Latinx Communities”, and another in November “Latinx Feminism: Then and Now”. Both panels featured prominent scholars from the Midwest and beyond in those fields. A final panel in the series “Immigration in the New South: Latinx, Asians Americans, and African Americans” is scheduled for March 2023. We were also co-sponsors for a presentation on campus by playwright **Melissa Du Prey** and director **Miranda González** that Prof. Delgadillo helped organized with the Center for Visual Cultures, directed by Prof. **Paola Hernandez**. CLS affiliate **Diego Román** also brought education researcher **Daniel Martinez Doyle** to campus in December with our assistance. Two junior faculty, **Marla Ramírez Tahuado** and **Aurora Santiago-Ortiz**, together with Prof. Delgadillo have already developed an exciting plan for next year’s CLS Speakers Series. So, look for more remarkable events in 2023-2024. The Program has also continued its co-curricular programming this fall with great success. Our CLS community gatherings still pack Ingraham 336 and have included lots of great news and information for undergraduates. **ChilaCSa**, effectively the student government for the CLS Certificate, organized an altar for Día de los Muertos this year, as well as a scary movie night in October, a non-partisan-get-out-the-vote event in November, and a well-attended “study jam” just before finals.

This fall, our faculty continue to log impressive achievements. **Theresa Delgadillo**, Professor of English and CLS, was appointed as Vilas Distinguished Achievement Professor. A big congratulation to Theresa! **Falina Enriquez**, Assistant Professor in Anthropology and CLS affiliate, for example, received tenure and published her monograph, *The Cost of the Gig Economy* (University of Illinois Press), an ethnographic study of musicians in Northeast Brazil. Congratulations to Falina for this achievement! Another affiliate faculty member, **Carolina Sarmiento** (Civil Society & Community Studies), was named an Outstanding Woman of Color in Education by the UW System. Dr. Sarmiento was already among the UW-Madison community member recognized by the University as Outstanding Women of Color, and we congratulate her for these well-deserved honors. Not to be outdone, affiliate faculty member **Marina Pacheco** (Curriculum & Instruction) was recognized as an outstanding Latina leader by the online publication *Madison 365*, and **Armando Ibarra** received the Joe Rody Labor Rights Award from the Milwaukee-based community organization *Voces de la Frontera*.

This fall semester, we happily witnessed the well-deserved recognition by the Wisconsin Alumni Association of **Jesús Salas**, a longtime labor organizer, educator, former UW-System Regent, and benefactor of the **Chican@ & Latin@ Studies Program**. He was one of the eleven distinguished alumni honored in October with a plaque at Alumni Park commemorating his achievements. You can watch and hear his remarks on our web page and YouTube channel. We deeply appreciate Regent Salas’s continued commitment to our Program, and we are looking forward to the publication of his book sometime next year.

**December 23, 2022**  
**Vol. 20, Issue 1**

**COORDINATING EDITOR:**  
Jessica Gomez I

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**Program Information**



Finally, this year the Program has organized a subcommittee to consider options for a name change. For years, students have expressed dissatisfaction with the use of “@” in “Chican@ & Latin@ Studies” and advocated informally for a program name that would better reflect the self-understandings of communities of Latin American descent today. With the help of advisor **Rachelle Eilers**, ChiLaCSa, conducted a survey of student preferences for the Program’s name. In response, I formed a subcommittee to review options and make recommendations to the full faculty regarding the Program’s name. Thanks to Prof. **Michael Light** (Sociology and CLS) for agreeing to chair this subcommittee.

As I reflect on the first half of my second year as CLS Director, I realize that every day in the position has given me more reason to appreciate the brilliance, passion, and commitment of our CLS faculty, staff, and students. I have benefited greatly from one-to-one conversations with many of you and from thoughtful participation of faculty in our governance meetings and committees. I offer sincerest thanks to **Rachelle Eilers** and administrator **Peter Haney**, project assistant **Jessica Gómez**, and student workers **Lenzy Xelhua-Ledezma**, **Vanessa Bello Ruiz**, and **Jesús Barraza**, who keep the place running and teach me something new every day.

## WELCOME NEW AFFILIATES

Join the us in welcoming the new Fall 2022 Affiliates to the CLS Program. We are excited to see all that you will contribute to the program!



Jorell Meléndez-Badillo is a historian of Puerto Rico, the Caribbean, and Latin America. Their work focuses on the global circulation for radical ideas from the standpoint of working-class intellectual communities.

Chris Saldaña is a new assistant professor in the School of Education’s Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis, is the host of a podcast from the National Education Policy Center (NEPC).





# CHICAN@ AND LATIN@ STUDIES PROGRAM

## FACULTY

### FALL 2022



**Nidia Bañuelos**

Assistant Professor of Adult, Continuing, and Higher Education

**Theresa Delgadillo**

Professor, English and Chican@ & Latin@ Studies

**Edna Ely-Ledesma**

Assistant Professor, Planning & Landscape Architecture

**Falina Enriquez**

Assistant Professor, Anthropology

**Alberta M. Gloria**

Professor, Counseling Psychology

**Paola Hernández**

Professor, Spanish & Portuguese

**Armando Ibarra**

Professor, School for Workers and Chican@ & Latin@ Studies

**Kathryn Kirchgasler**

Assistant Professor, Curriculum & Instruction

**Michael Light**

Professor, Sociology and Chican@ & Latin@ Studies

**Lori Lopez**

Professor, Communication Arts

**Benjamin Márquez**

Professor, Political Science

**Sara McKinnon**

Professor, Communication Arts

**Rubén Medina**

Professor, Spanish & Portuguese

**Jorell Meléndez-Badillo**

Assistant Professor of History

**Almita Miranda**

Assistant Professor, Geography and Chican@ & Latin@ Studies

**Alfonso Morales**

Vilas Distinguished Achievement Professor, Planning & Landscape Architecture

**Mariana Pacheco**

Professor, Curriculum & Instruction

**Steve Quintana**

Professor, Counseling Psychology

**Marla Ramírez**

Assistant Professor, History and Chican@ & Latin@ Studies

**Sarah Rios**

Assistant Professor, Community and Environmental Sociology

**Diana Rodríguez-Gómez**

Assistant Professor, Educational Policy Studies

**Diego Román**

Assistant Professor, Curriculum and Instruction

**Christopher Saldaña**

Assistant Professor, Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis

**Aurora Santiago-Ortiz**

Assistant Professor, Gender & Women's Studies and Chican@ & Latin@ Studies

**Carolina Sarmiento**

Assistant Professor, Civil Society & Community Studies, School of Human Ecology

**Revel Sims**

Assistant Professor, Planning and Landscape Architecture and Chican@ & Latin@ Studies

**Allison Powers Useche**

Assistant Professor, History

**Kate Vieira**

Professor, Curriculum and Instruction, Susan J. Cellmer Distinguished Chair in Literacy

**Juan E. Zalapa**

Professor, Horticulture



# FALL 2022 FACULTY UPDATES



Theresa Delgadillo was named a Vilas Distinguished Achievement Professor. One of the most prestigious awards granted by the university, the Vilas professorship recognizes outstanding contributions to scholarship and to the University's research mission. In addition receiving a generous research award for the next three years, Dr. Delgadillo will hold the Vilas title as long as she remains at the University.



Falina Enriquez was awarded tenure. She will be promoted to Associate Professor in the Anthropology Department. Her book, The Costs of the Gig Economy, an ethnographic study of musicians in northeastern Brazil, was published this year by the University of Illinois Press.

Armando Ibarra was honored with the Joe Rody Labor Rights Award by Voces de la Frontera. In a statement, the UW School for Workers stated that Prof. Ibarra "has shown his leadership by proactively creating bridges between higher education in service to the struggle of low-wage immigrant workers and their families. Armando represents the Wisconsin Idea, which sees public schools not as an ivory tower but as a catalyst for bringing community resources to address community problems in a way that empowers and respects the dignity of working people."



Mariana Pacheco was named one of the 46 most influential Latino Leaders in Wisconsin by Madison365. Her work contributes to theorizations and empirical knowledge of policies, programs, pedagogies, and practices that amplify what 'counts' as knowledge and that enhance bi/multilingual students' academic potential through asset-based and strength-based educational practices, particularly for Chican@/Latin@ students. A professor of Curriculum and Instruction since 2006, Dr. Pacheco is a longtime CLS affiliate and current chair of the Program's Faculty Development Committee.





Carolina Sarmiento, who is already among the UW-Madison's current cohort of Outstanding Women of Color, was recognized by the UW system with the Outstanding Woman of Color in Education award. This honor recognizes Carolina's achievements in advancing equity and inclusion for people of color within the UW System as well as communities across the state.

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Almita Miranda won a Junior Scholarship Engagement Award from the Association of Latina/Latino/Latinx Anthropologists. The purpose of this award is to recognize junior scholars whose scholarship and public engagement addresses relevant, timely issues in Latinx communities.



Nidia Bañuelos received an NSF grant to conduct research in partnership with engineers at the University of Texas–El Paso on Latine students' pathways into STEM careers. Nidia will be conducting surveys and interviews with Latine STEM majors at Hispanic-serving Institutions (HSIs) and emerging HSIs in the UT System over the course of three years, to see what resources they use to persist in STEM, choose their professions, and succeed on the job and grad school market.

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Last August, Rubén Medina published an article entitled 'Tulio Mora: nuevos sujetos históricos y experimentación poética' as the prologue for the 2022 Mexican re-edition of Mora's *Mitologías*. He examines Mora's long poem in terms of the concept of the poema integral, fashioned by the Neo-avant-garde Peruvian group, Hora Zero.



This Fall saw the publication of "Intersectional Methodological Approaches: Research movidas to Center Latino/Latina/Latinx Voices," a special issue of the journal Latino Studies edited by Marla Ramírez Tahuado and Sarah Rios. Ramírez, Rios and their collaborators build partnerships with marginalized people to write "counter-stories" of resistance, providing new perspectives on established narratives and exposing the violence of racism and colonialism.





# WHAT'S NEW AT CLS?



## THE CLS SPEAKER SERIES!



Faculty member Theresa Delgadillo organized this year's new "Chican@ and Latin@ Studies Today" Speaker Series! Read more about Professor Delgadillo below.

Professor Delgadillo joined the CLS Program and the English Department in 2019. Her career has been devoted to contributing to building knowledge in Latinx and Chicanx Studies, primarily in literature and cultural studies. She teaches CHICLA 368, "Chicanx and Latinx Literature," and has proposed and taught another titled "Black and Latinx in Literature and Visual Culture." This year Professor Delgadillo and a group of collaborators published an edited volume on placemaking and Latinx belonging in the US, titled called Building Sustainable Worlds. The first event in the speaker series brought contributors to the book to discuss their work. Professor Delgadillo supports the CLS Program by working with students on their projects and interests. She has been working with Danitza Rodriguez Jimenez on Latinx Talk, a series of mini-readers on CLS topics for nonspecialists. The readers have been successful and have generated great interest.



The CLS Today Speaker Series was a "lucky risk" as Professor Delgadillo puts it. Once she learned that grants were available from the Anonymous Fund, she took the leap and applied with support from CLS Director Rubén Medina. Working quickly to meet the deadline, she decided to center the series on the topic of sustainability, one of her key interests.





Jose Gibran Villalobos presenting at the first "CLS Today" panel

The ultimate goal of the CLS Speaker Series is to bring the campus community to a space where everyone is able to learn from leading Latino scholars across the country. It's important to note that this is not unique to Madison but that Latinx studies is a vibrant field across the country. It's also important for scholars around the country to learn about the programs here in Wisconsin. A third goal would be to give students the ability to see research outside the classroom. The series seeks to show them how to navigate the world by looking at a bigger picture.

## SUSTAINABILITY AND PLACEMAKING IN LATINX COMMUNITIES

The first CLS Today Speaker Series event took place on Thursday September 22, 2022. Contributors to the new volume [Building Sustainable Worlds: Latinx Placemaking in the Midwest](#), just out from the University of Illinois Press, shared their thoughts on the ways that people of Latin American descent in the Midwest use forms of cultural expression to build livable communities, create cohesion and self-support, and renew environments. Published this past summer, the book stems from a grant-funded project that began in 2016. Drawing on five to six years of collaboration, the essays in the volume examine sustainability and placemaking from several disciplinary perspectives. Contributors include practitioners, artists, community activists, scholars and graduate students. Participants in the panel included Jose Gibran Villalobos of the Institute for Museum and Library Service, Delia Fernandez-Jones of Michigan State University, and Claire Fox of the University of Iowa. The departments of Community and Environmental Sociology and History served as co-sponsors, as did the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies and the Center for Latin American, Caribbean and Iberian Studies (LACIS).

Delia Fernandez-Jones, Jose Gibran Villalobos, Theresa Delgadillo and Claire Fox after their presentation on Sustainability and Placemaking in Latinx Communities.





## LATINX FEMINISMS: THEN AND NOW



Mariana Rivera (left) and Stephanie Rivera-Berruz (right) after presenting their Latinx Feminisms: Then and Now presentation.

The second panel in the series brought Stephanie Rivera-Berruz of Marquette University and Mariana Rivera of Penn State to campus. On Thursday, November 10, the two discussed Latinx feminisms in contemporary and historical perspective. Dr. Rivera Berruz shared her research on pioneering Caribbean feminists Luisa Capetillo, Ofelia Rodríguez Acosta, and Evangelina Rodríguez Perozo. Associate Professor Mariana Ortega presented on Aural Unsettlement. Co-sponsors included the Departments of Philosophy and Gender & Women's Studies and LACIS.

In addition to their late afternoon talk, the panelists met with a graduate student reading group in Philosophy that has been exploring Latin American philosophy for a lively discussion.

## IMMIGRATION IN THE NEW SOUTH: LATINXS, ASIAN AMERICANS, AND AFRICAN AMERICANS

**NEXT SEMESTER:** Thursday March 23, 2023. 4:00 pm, Social Science 8417

The final panel in the series will examine Latin American and Asian migration to the southeastern United States. Often seen as new, this migratory trend has now lasted for decades. Panelists Jennifer Jones of the University of Illinois, Chicago, and Perla Guerrero of the University of Maryland will examine the ways that immigrants from Latin America and Asia have changed southern life over the last thirty years and discuss relations between long-standing African American communities and their new(ish) neighbors. Co-sponsors include the Departments of African American Studies, and Sociology, the Asian American Studies Program, and LACIS.

Panelists:



Perla Guerrero



Jennifer Jones



# JESÚS SALAS

## AMONG ALUMNI HONORED AT ALUMNI PARK



Jesús Salas accepting his award at the fifth anniversary of Alumni Park.



The Jesús Salas installation piece that can be located at Alumni Park.

On October 7th, the Alumni Association celebrated the fifth anniversary of Alumni Park by unveiling eleven new portraits of alumni such as bell hooks, Governor Tony Evers, André De Shields and others, whose work exemplifies the Wisconsin Idea. Among those honored was labor organizer, CLS benefactor, and former UW System regent Jesús Salas.

## THE LEGACY OF JESÚS SALAS

Jesús Salas is a labor organizer, educator, a former UW System Regent, a and life-long changemaker and community advocate. In his speech accepting the honor granted him by the Alumni Association, Salas described his journey from the migrant stream to leadership in higher education. Inspired by the example of César Chávez, he organized the labor union "Obreros Unidos" in 1964. Salas realized that the word "obrero" ("worker") spoke to him and his collaborators in ways that "campesino," a term popular with the California farmworker's movement, did not. An "obrero," Salas noted, is a creator, someone whose labor makes things ("obras"). After years of organizing and struggle, Salas connected with UW Madison professor Elizabeth Brandeis Raushenbush. She supported the work he was doing and encouraged him to advance both that work and his University studies. This led Salas to finish a Master's degree in 1985. During his time on campus he helped establish the CLS program. Eventually, he moved and began teaching at Milwaukee Area Technical College where he helped start a bilingual teaching program. Then Governor Jim Doyle appointed him the UW System Board of Regents, and he served from 2003 until 2007.



CLS faculty and staff standing with Jesús Salas at the Alumni Celebration.



Today, Regent Salas's financial support makes possible the Jesús Salas Academic Activist Scholarship, which the Program awards each spring to a student who has excelled academically and made notable contributions to Latinx communities.



Jesús Salas an MA graduate  
Class of 1985.



Jesús Salas accepting his award at  
the fifth anniversary of Alumni Park.

Thanks to all the efforts made by Jesús Salas our program has continued to serve as a safe space for students, and we are proud to continue furthering his vision on campus. The program congratulates him for this much-deserved award, which acknowledges the title he valued so much: "obrero."

## GRADUATE STUDENT MEET UP

The CLS Program recently started the Grad Student Meetup Series. This program launched in Spring 2022 and it's mission was to bring together grad students from all different departments and programs to connect with CLS faculty. This past November was the first meetup of the 2022-2023 academic year where we had Marla Ramírez Tahuado from the History Department as our guest speaker. Marla spoke about how she was able to navigate higher education as a first-generation student, what it was like moving to different states in order to continue to pursue higher education and opportunities, as well as her book project. Graduate students were able to engage in a meaningful discussion as well as ask Prof. Ramírez questions about her journey. Make sure to be on the lookout for next semester's Grad Student Meetup date.



Grad Students, CLS faculty and staff gather  
to talk about navigating higher education as  
first generation students.



# CLS IS ON THE MOVE!

Before long, the CLS Program will move to a new home in the proposed Irving and Dorothy Levy Hall. Made possible through a \$20 million gift commitment by Jeff Levy ('72) and Marv Levy (BA '68, JD '71), the building will be the new College of Letters & Science hub. It is expected to house the departments of African American Studies, Gender and Women's Studies, and History as well as American Indian Studies, Asian American Studies, and CLS. Planned for the corner of Park and Johnson streets, The building is expected to open in 2025.



Proposed building for the CLS relocation happening in 2025.



Pictured: Jesus Barraza, Rachelle Eilers, Lenzy Xelhua-Ledezma, Jessica Carrera-Valadez, and Yanci Almonte



Written By: Lenzy Xelhua-Ledezma

Chilacsa is the student government organization connected with the Chican@ and Latin@ Studies program. At the beginning of the semester we started off strong with the March Up Bascom. We had over 100 students participate in the event and show off their Latine pride. In October, we hosted two events: 'Lunch and Paint' and 'Spooky Movie Night.' With these two events members were able to mingle and get to know each other with a fun activity and a tasty meal. On November 8th, we hosted a 'Go Vote' event to incentivize the student body to vote on election day. We discussed why voting was important with each student. Overwhelmingly but not surprisingly, all students could agree it was important to vote for their community and family. Finally this December, we hosted our semesterly Study Jam in collaboration with Lambda Theta Phi Fraternity, Inc. At the study jam, we held a raffle fundraiser for students, staff, and faculty to get a chance to win materials that would help them stay afloat during finals. We hope to continue having great support from students and putting on monthly events. Don't forget to follow us on Instagram (@chilacsa) to see what we are up to next semester!



# NOTE FROM THE CLS ADVISOR



## RACHELLE EILERS

What got you interested in being the CLS advisor?

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When I was a UW undergrad, there was not a full-time Advisor for the Chicla Program - we were advised by a graduate student named Jillian Jacklin. Jillian was so sweet and made me feel very comfortable and welcomed in the program and campus overall. Even though we only met once, she was the only advisor on campus that I felt comfortable with. After graduate school, I was working for the PEOPLE Program as an Academic Advisor, when the Chicla Advisor position opened up. It felt like the natural next step for me.



What are your hobbies?

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My hobbies include reading fiction novels by BIPOC individuals, specifically Latinas, traveling, drinking iced coffee, working out, attending live sporting events (Go Cowboys), and overall just being with my family.

There are many fun and exciting things going on in the Chican@ & Latin@ Studies Program! We now have over 210 students in the program and we're continuing to keep our students engaged through high impact programming and of course advising assistance. I realized I haven't introduced myself in some time. Thus my Advisor Section this fall will be dedicated to providing readers information about me. See below.

How long have you been working with CLS?

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I have been working with the Chican@ & Latin@ Studies Program as the Academic Advisor since fall of 2014. The past 8 years have literally flown by. It has been truly an honor to work with such an amazing group of students and faculty.

What did you study in undergrad?

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I am originally from Racine, WI. So I started off my undergraduate career as a Chemistry major at UW-Parkside (I thought I wanted to be pre-med). I then transferred to UW-Madison and after taking my first STEM class here, I quickly realized that that was not the major for me. I then thought, "Well what else can I do to make money and be "successful?" I figured law school would be the easy next step, so I ended up majoring in Political Science with certificates in Chican@ & Latin@ and African Studies. I loved my Chicla classes and took more courses than I needed to secure the certificate. I ended up working as a Residential Mentor for the PEOPLE Program twice, and that helped me realize I wanted to work in higher education with underrepresented students.



What has been your go-to song to listen to?

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Right now it's R&B Christmas music, haha. My favorite genre of music is R&B and my fave artist is Jazmin Sullivan. Her voice gives me the chills. I have also really been enjoying the female representation in hip-hop too!

What is your favorite CLS memory?

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My favorite CLS memory is always the spring graduations. They're the best part of this position. Seeing all the students and their families/friends together in one room celebrating the huge accomplishment is the best. There is so much love! I always leave with my cup filled.



What do you hope to see out of the program within the next 5 years?

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I really look forward to the CLS major coming out this fall. I also hope the Program changes its name to something more inclusive of non-binary folx (we have been meeting as a name change committee to do just this). Lastly, I hope we can obtain Department status soon and hire more budgeted faculty members. And of course, that we continue to see an increase in attendance at the CLS lunches and students declared within the Program.



Which CLS Gathering has been your favorite this fall semester?

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My favorite gathering was the SciMed GRS panel where we had UW Latine PhD students in STEM fields speak as a panel to our undergrads. I felt extremely inspired by their journeys, and I think the students did too :)

Do you have any advice for undergraduates?

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Your major does not equal your career. Find your community here as soon as you can (our Chicla lunches can help with this). And get involved in undergrad with things that interest you, it can lead you to your dream career, like I did.

How can students connect with you if they want to declare the CLS certificate?

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Students can schedule an appointment with me to declare via Starfish on their MyUW or I do drop-in advising at the Latinx Cultural Center on Wednesdays. My office is in Ingraham Hall, and if my door is open, they're also more than welcome to drop in any time.



# AWARD SPOTLIGHT

I am a senior studying elementary education with a certification in Early Childhood and English as a Second Language and will be entering my final student-teaching semester in Spring 2023. Also, I am pursuing certificates in Chicana/Latina Studies and Educational Policy Studies. This summer, I participated in an English-teaching internship in Seville, Spain. My incredible 6-week solo journey was possible through the academic and financial support of the UW-Madison International Internship Program. Additionally, I was awarded the SOMOS Award, which allowed me to complete this unique experience without acquiring a financial burden.

I worked at the English Social Club from late June to July. The ESC's main target is language acquisition; regardless of age, the point was for students to absorb English in a meaningful context. The second target was the proof of acquisition through a focus on passing English-knowledge exams - APTIS and ISE. Finally, acquiring a language means nothing if you cannot maintain it. That is why ESC sees itself as a space where the English language is fun and valuable.



**KATHRYN SAAVEDRA-BALLESTEROS**

Class of 2023

Although initially, my goal was to build a more extensive repertoire of English learning tools, more broadly, I gained deeper insight into my ethnoracial, linguistic and national identities. As a bilingual individual, I was put under a pressure cooker of conditions to create quality instruction and manage my classrooms. In addition, I often felt the limitations of my less-than-formal acquisition of both languages (as a simultaneous bilingual). Yet, overall, I was mentored by the ESC staff and worked through some of my weak points (i.e., grammatical knowledge) to benefit my students with language-knowledge of English and Spanish.

Additionally, during my time, I came to terms with my Americanness; in other words, in the context of Spain, I was not Mexican-American but rather American-Mexican. Ultimately, I saw all the American values I had been socialized into, but they were being smashed by my Spanish experience against a very sturdy Mexican, molcajete.

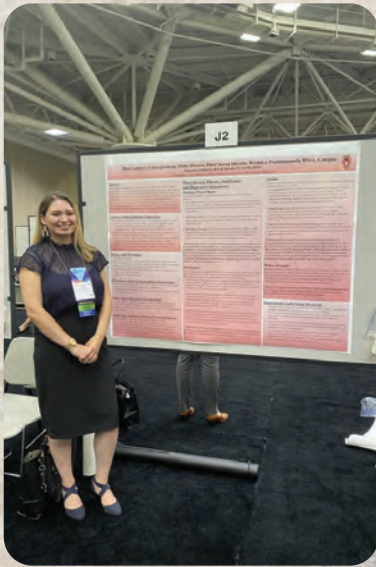
I am incredibly grateful to my supportive IIP supervisors Carly Stingl and Nathaniel Liedel, the patient and helpful Administrator Peter Haney and, the ESC's director Marta Carranza, and her fantastic staff. They became a home away from home for me. These individuals have helped me realize my passion for bi/multilingual education and opened my eyes to the world of teaching abroad.





# ELIZANDRA SANDOVAL

Class of 2021



First and foremost, thank you to the CLS Program for the opportunity to share my research interests and experiences. I am indebted to the CLS department for their continued time, energy, and support in my journey and in helping create an empowering educational experience ~mil gracias por su gran apoyo.

I graduated from UW with a Bachelor of Science in Human Development & Family Studies, Psychology, and a certificate in Chican@ Latin@ Studies. Currently, I am pursuing my Master of Science in Counseling at UW where I have continued my work in serving Latinx students in higher education. Through my research, clinical, and scholarly work, I center the unique educational experiences and processes of Latinx students.

Many of my own experiences as a first-generation Mexican American college student inform my desire and passion for integrating students' cultural strengths across resources and services. As an undergraduate student, I remember seeking campus communities that reflected mi cultura – longing for a space and place to bring forward my cultural values.

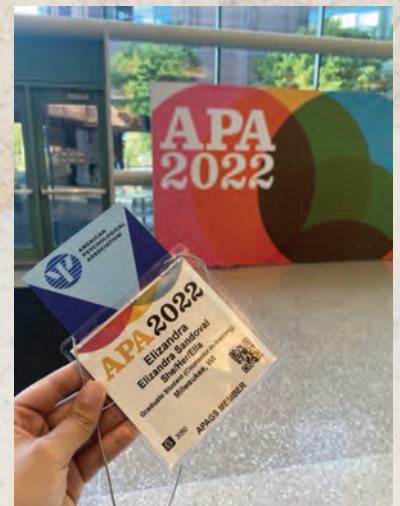
These experiences encouraged me to uplift the Latinx narrative in higher education and highlight the shared experience in seeking belonging at predominantly white institutions. Today, my cultural intuition serves as the foundation to my social justice advocacy in working with our communities.

As a graduate student, I have had the privilege of exploring the Latino/x male experience in higher education. In this process, I wondered how Latino/x males negotiate their social identities to create a sense of belonging across campus communities. In listening to students' narrative, I was inspired by their commitment to advancing the Latinx experience through transmitted cultural values. I was moved by how students named, processed, and manifested their social identities to pay forward their ancestral sacrifices.

I had the privilege of presenting this research project at the 2021 American Psychological Association, where I offered implications for supporting the psychological, social, and cultural needs of Latino/x undergraduate males.

At the conference, I held a strong awareness of my role as a first-generation Mexican American college student – I closely held students' narratives and my cultural expertise to share the experiences often underserved and underrepresented in academic spaces. Fue un orgullo representar nuestra cultura. I hold a great sense of honor and privilege to have shared the unique and nuanced educational experience of Latino/x undergraduate males. This experience later allowed for a new scale development, created by Dr. Alberta M. Gloria and I, to further understand how students experience campus communities.

I recognize the voices and communities I carry when I enter academic spaces and cannot help but feel grateful to those that have poured into my education. Un agradecimiento a Dr. Andrea-Teresa Arenas and former Chancellor John Wiley for their continued commitment to serving historically underserved and underrepresented students, and for creating opportunities, like the Somos Award, to generously support and create access for professional development. Thanks also to CLS Directors Armando Ibarra and Rubén Medina as well as Administrator Peter Haney for their support as I prepared for the research conference. Y mil gracias a Dr. Alberta M. Gloria for her commitment to honoring students' experiences and encouraging me to bring forward my most salient identities in my research, clinical, and scholarly work.





# CONGRATULATIONS FALL 2022 GRADUATES



**Marcel Bogucki**

B.A., Political Science



**Jane Ellmann**

B.A., Social Welfare



**Mayra Olguin**

B.S., Human Development  
and Family Studies



**Stephanie Salgado**

**Altamirano**

B.S., Environmental Studies  
and Political Science



# DANITZA RODRIGUEZ JIMENEZ

Class of 2024

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I am a third-year student majoring in International Studies with certificates in Art History and Chican@ & Latin@ Studies. In the future, I hope to pursue a career in art administration and curation, specifically in Latinx art. This past summer, I had the opportunity to work with Professor Delgadillo on Latinx Talk, a series of Mini-Readers. The purpose of Latinx Talk is to provide students and other Latinx people free and easy access to the growing scholarly work concerning our community.

Each Mini-Reader explores a different topic and how it pertains to and affects the Latinx diaspora. The two this summer were about environmentalism and gendered violence. I was tasked with researching the current discourse in Latinx Studies regarding each topic in order to create the introductions for the books and curate the different scholarly pieces that would be included.

In addition to my research, I also got the chance to expand my art background by working with digital media. I created the Mini-Reader covers for both books, and for the Mini-Reader we are currently working collaboratively on. This one focuses on Queer and Trans Latinx lives. As part of my work, I also went to Milwaukee to capture photographs of various murals by Mauricio Ramirez, whose art is based around Latinx identities and upholds cultural pride. These photos are now being used to promote the "Chican@ & Latin@ Studies Today" speaker series. I was especially excited to undertake these creative projects because I was able to delve into different forms of Latinx art that I otherwise would not have interacted with. This opportunity has allowed me to gain exposure to the field and form connections with people who are already established in it in addition to learning new ways to integrate art and culture into a career. In this project I hope that my contributions to these initiatives help amplify all Latinx voices and promote an open space to facilitate tackling these difficult conversations and encourage Latinx people to pursue the arts.



# YANCI ALMONTE VARGAS

Class of 2024



I am a Fourth-year Pre-Medicine student working towards a Bachelor of Science in Global Health with emphases/certificates in Chicanx and Latinx Studies, and African Cultural Studies. This summer, I had the pleasure of participating in the Diversity Summer Health-Related Research Education Program (DSHREP) through the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, where I worked as a research assistant in a laboratory focused on multiple myeloma. Furthermore, DSHREP matched me and the other participants with laboratories based on our interests; provided training on lab etiquette and precautions; held sessions on MCAT preparation, professionalism, and networking; hosted panels with medical students, doctors, and the Medical School faculty; opened the doors for many shadowing opportunities in different specialties, and exposed us to a variety of medical specialties.





During the two months of the program, I was able to obtain housing through the program at no out-of-pocket cost. As a Health Professions Shadowing Program alumnus, it was a pleasure for me to be a part of MCW's research pipeline program, because of the professional, personal, and academic connections I was able to make and the extensive and in-depth laboratory exposure I received. Lastly, the program helped remind me that I belong in medicine and can thrive in the profession. I hope other UW students will take advantage of this opportunity.

## LUCÍA ANAIS ESTRADA

Class of 2023

I am a Mercile J. Lee Scholar, and I am a fourth-year student majoring in Philosophy with a certificate in Chican@ & Latin@ Studies. On campus, I am a member of the College of Letters & Science Dean's Ambassadors Program, and I work with the UW Archives on the Outstanding Women of Color Award Oral History Project.

As a Dean's Ambassador, I have been able to converse with a diverse group of students from the College of Letters & Science on different facets of the school that affect the student body. Most recently, we met to discuss the Sifting and Reckoning Exhibit being housed at the Chazen Museum. From the student perspective, we discussed possible ways in which we hope to see the public history project preserved and continued on the UW Campus and what the expansion of the project could look like. Towards the beginning of the year, we reviewed the Liberal Arts 2030 plan and provided student input on what we found beneficial within the plan. I have been a member of the Dean's Ambassadors Program since Fall 2021 and have really enjoyed the round table discussions as we serve as communication between the student body and administration of the college.

For the past 11 months, I have worked with the UW Archives as a project coordinator for the Outstanding Women of Color Award Oral History Project. The Outstanding Women of Color Award is a distinction presented by the DDEEA here at UW to women of color who have made impactful contributions to their field of study and the Madison community. With an Oral History focus, the project aims to preserve the stories through interviews of these influential women of color. The first recipient of this award in 1995 was Mercile J. Lee, the founder of the UW scholarship programs that now bear her name. With the project, I have gotten the opportunity to research each recipient along with listening to and transcribing interviews done by previous members of the UW Oral History Department. I am currently in the process of interviewing recipients and will be continuing through Spring 2023. A story not always highlighted within higher education, the project has given me the privilege of preserving the stories of incredible women of color associated with UW.



## ANDI HERNANDEZ

Class of 2024

I am a current 4th-year Arndt Family Scholar majoring in Community & Nonprofit Leadership with a certificate Disability Rights & Services. This summer I worked for UW-Madison as a housefellow for the Summer Collegiate Program. This program offers free housing and summer classes for 6 weeks for incoming freshmen from different scholarships and programs such as PEOPLE, ITA, and the Center of Academic Excellence. As an incoming freshman I also went through this program and it was truly the housefellow and the mentorship I received from them that inspired my career path and interest.





I was able to step outside of my comfort zone in many ways. I fostered the development and safety of 150 students by helping to resolve conflict, creating a positive living environment, and working with other housefellows to implement programming and events for our students. I truly love and appreciate the opportunity, as it helped me discover a passion for event planning and coordinating for youth and the community. It has also created unforgettable memories and bonds that I look forward to continuing to strengthen while I am still at UW.

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

### KARINA MELENDEZ

Class of 2022



This past summer I had the privilege to attend & help a UW-Madison student plan & operate a booth at Milwaukee's, Mexican Fiesta Summerfest hosted by the Wisconsin Hispanic Scholarship Foundation, Inc. For those who are unfamiliar with Mexican Fiesta, it is a 3 day-long event that celebrates Mexican culture in the heart of Milwaukee through live music, food, special programming, and many more family friendly activities.

One of their main goals of this event is to "Improve the standard of living for Hispanics residing in the state of Wisconsin." With this in mind my research team and I thought this would be an excellent opportunity to discuss research among the Latine community & how their experiences are vital to community health. Nationally Latinos make up nearly 18% of US population yet only 6% of these individuals participate in clinical trials according to Stephanie Presch of "UnidosUS." If our research is not fully reflecting the communities we come from or communities similar to ours then how can we say we have good inclusive research? Moreover, research that is used to change health policies, fund our communities, and many other possible systemic changes to our standards of living. Our research needs to be accessible and inclusive.

Mexican Fiesta allowed my research team to address this issue among Latines in Milwaukee and speak about why their involvement in research studies is critical to the changes we wish to see in our communities. During our time there we spoke about their impact on research while explaining how they can get involved in our research study or how to go about requesting information from healthcare providers. It was also a time for them to express their grievances & fears when it came to research. It is no secret that past research has been unethical to patients who identify from a minority group. Our plan was not to shut down these concerns, but to empathize with them. People should carry concerns & hesitancy when it comes to research, but intentional listening & put these concerns to rest through open communication is what makes healthy & ethical research.



I learned from this experience how powerful spaces that celebrate community & culture can be. It's a space that is catered to ease the experiences of Latines in a polarizing world. Individuals & families, I came into contact with had very little information on what research in Wisconsin looks like, who it helps, what it isn't, where to find it, & so many more questions. In this space we were allowed to have articulate conversations through shared culture & language, that put both them & my team at ease in navigating these dialogues. Overall, the event was very successful and I hope to be able to continue these outreach efforts among my team to make research inclusive & accessible for all people. Thank you to the Mexican Fiesta organizers, staff, volunteers, vendors, sponsors, and attendees to making this a memorable event for Latines across Wisconsin!



I would also like to thank the Chican@ & Latin@ Studies program for their continued support and the opportunity to express my experience & words. This space is as powerful as the community who pours into it, unapologetically. Thank you.

## **SABRINA DORNAN**

Class of 2021

When I chose to attend UW-Madison back in 2017, I was excited to attend a large university, hoping that with tens of thousands of students, there would be plenty of diversity and I would fit in. I grew up in Chicago for much of my childhood and then moved to a predominately white suburb of Milwaukee. When I moved to the Milwaukee suburb, I felt lost and out of place because no one else looked like me. Fast forward to choosing UW-Madison for college, I thought I would finally return to an environment where I could be surrounded by people of all backgrounds who I could relate to. Unfortunately, when I arrived on campus, I quickly learned that I was mistaken, and that the campus was not nearly as diverse as I had hoped.

I struggled to find my place on campus for a long time, but it was in my CLS classes that I felt I had a stronger voice and could speak openly with my peers. CLS offers an amazing sense of community that I did not find in most other parts of campus. The classes for the CLS certificate were truly some of the most informative and enjoyable ones I took during my four years, and I carried over what I learned in those classes to my first job out of college.

After graduating in May 2021, I returned to Chicago to work as a paralegal for an immigration non-profit. I wanted to work with immigrant populations post-graduation, and I had an interest in law so I decided to explore the intersection of the two. It was in this role that I was able to utilize so much of the information I learned in my CLS classes to the real world.



At the non-profit, my work was largely client-facing and the majority of my clients were detained unaccompanied children who entered the United States alone. We had two main goals: to explain the immigration system in a child-friendly way and to find legal relief that provided the children with options to stay in the United States. I absolutely loved working with the youth, and I learned so much from them. Though immigration work can be emotionally straining, working with young immigrants was the most gratifying and inspiring work I have ever done.



Sabrina (left) and Jessica (right) on the first day of Law School orientation.

I thoroughly enjoyed both the client-facing and legal aspects of my job and so I decided to pursue law school. I embarked on a long cycle of applying to law schools all over the country and, ultimately, Wisconsin pulled me back in. I am now in my first year at the University of Wisconsin Law School right on Bascom Hill and couldn't be prouder of the decision I made to return to Madison. Though I am still unsure of what type of law I want to practice, I know that my passion for advocating for underserved communities will carry over into my legal career. My passion has always lied in helping individuals who face automatic disadvantages simply due to the color of their skin and I hope to use my law degree to help historically underrepresented communities overcome the inequities that exist in society.

## MARY DUEÑAS

Masters 2016 & PhD 2021

Dr. Mary Dueñas, a UW-Madison alumna who served a CLS Project Assistant, was recently published in the August 2022 issue of the International Journal of Qualitative Studies in Education. Make sure to check out her article: "Para honrar los sacrificios de mi familia: Motivating persons and processes of Latinx undergraduates attending a predominantly White institution." She currently works as an Assistant Professor at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.





# CHICAN@ AND LATIN@ STUDIES PROGRAM MISSION

The Chican@ and Latin@ Studies Program offers a systematic and interdisciplinary analysis of Mexican- and Latin American-origin people, cultures, and collectivities within the United States. The interdisciplinary Program is designed to provide students with a broad knowledge base and the intellectual tools to understand the unity and diversity of U.S. Latin@ populations. The primary objective of the Program is to train students in the study of Chican@s and Latin@s, as well as to introduce them to the central questions, topics, and applications that have emerged in this field.

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## CHICAN@ AND LATIN@ STUDIES UNDERGRADUATE CERTIFICATE

The CLS Certificate is open to undergraduate students of all majors and schools! Certificate students are able to take courses on topics ranging from Latina Feminism, to Political Economy of the United States. The CLS Certificate is meant to exemplify the Wisconsin Idea; academic excellence, civic engagement, and diversity. The Certificate is 15 credits: CHICLA 201, one additional introductory class and at least 9 credits of upper-division electives. CLS instructors offer a variety if classed with many disciplines.

Contact Rachelle Eilers at [reilers@wisc.edu](mailto:reilers@wisc.edu) for more information on how to declare!

Facebook: [facebook.com/UWChicLa](https://facebook.com/UWChicLa)

Instagram: @UWChicLa

Twitter: @UWChicLa



Spring 2022 CLS Graduates

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## PUBLISH IN THE *LATINX STUDIES JOURNAL*



The Latinx Studies Journal is a student academic journal dedicated to promoting the study of Chicanx and Latinx experience and thought. Submissions include essays, poems, and art related work to Chicanxs/Latinxs in the United States. The Latinx Studies Journal gives students the opportunity to express themselves through the work they publish as both authors and editors.

Interested in writing for the journal?

Contact [chicla@letsci.wisc.edu](mailto:chicla@letsci.wisc.edu) for more information on how to get involved!





6th Annual March Up Bascom

## THE CLS PROGRAM TEAM

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## SUPPORT THE FUTURE OF CLS

The Chican@ & Latin@ Studies Discretionary Fund supports programs for students, faculty and the campus community.

The Jesus Salas Scholarship Fund provides scholarships for CLS students who are active in the Community.

The Andrea-Teresa Arenas Somos Fund provides awards for student and faculty professional development.

## DONATE ONLINE TODAY!

<https://chicla.wisc.edu/giving/>



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Latin@ Studies Program**  
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