

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN CHICAN@ LATIN@ STUDIES NEWSLETTER

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Jessica Gomez

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NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR, DR. RUBÉN MEDINA

Hello friends. As I reflect on the semester, we just completed, I can say it was productive and rewarding. In fall 2023, our Program began implementing the new BS/BA in Chican@ & Latin@ Studies. Our proposal for a new major was approved last March by the Universities of Wisconsin Regents, becoming the first such major created in the Universities of Wisconsin. In the Proposal, we projected enrolling 10 students in the first year. By the end of the fall semester, we had 40! Sixteen should graduate in May 2024.



This remarkable result comes from a great and coordinated team effort. It starts with faculty who are creating and teaching meaningful and exciting courses. Then there are the Program's ongoing events (Speaker's series, Gatherings, Celebrations, Workshops), as well as undergraduate students' desire to complement their knowledge and explore new professional expertise. Finally, the excellent work of **Rachelle Eilers**, our Academic Advising Manager, has also been key. Ms. Eilers has developed a thoughtful and careful plan for recruitment, advising, and mentoring. She visits all CLS courses every semester to talk about the CLS Certificate and Major and uses many platforms to publicize these degrees as well as the Program's courses and activities.

This extraordinary enrollment in the new major gives us a powerful incentive as we pursue departmental status. That's why I created an exploratory committee this fall semester. We know that CLSP will move in fall 2026 to Levy Hall, a new state-of-the art building that will house all the Ethnic Studies units as well as the Departments of History and Gender & Women Studies. Could we be a department by then? I think so. In my years as director, I have seen that the College of Letters & Science understands the relevance of our field, our innovative scholarship, and the service we provide to the University. L&S has supported our expansion with



Jim Escalante, Tess Arenas, Armando Ibarra



Carolina Sarmiento, Armando Ibarra, Revel Sims

the recent faculty hires and the creation of the Major. As we move toward department status, CLSP will seek to strengthen its Ph.D. Minor, and increase enrollment in that program as well.

We began the fall with two important events. First, CLS collaborated with the Wisconsin Historical Society on a book presentation of *Obreros Unidos. The Roots and Legacy of the Farmworkers Movement*, the much-awaited memoir by former UW Regent, Jesús Salas. At this event, Regent Salas took a large and enthusiastic audience on a journey through his remarkable experiences as civil rights leader, organizer, educator, and public intellectual. At the end of the presentation, Mr. Salas signed more than two dozen copies of his book outside the auditorium. Later in September, CLS partnered with the Latinx Cultural Center to celebrate the new Major with a gathering and art exhibit. As CLS director, I provided a brief history of the program and recognized everyone who participated in the creation of the Major and our program through the decades. It was an emotional celebration with strong attendance by emeritus faculty, students, staff, newer faculty, and friends from the Madison community.

In addition to these two events, our Program continued its speaker series this fall semester under the leadership of Assistant Professor **Aurora Santiago-Ortiz**, beginning with two panels on Puerto Rican Studies in September and October. Among the presenters were such eminent scholars, as **Mirelsie Velázquez** (U of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana), **Sara Awartani** (U of Michigan), **Maura Toro-Morn** (Illinois State U), **Lawrence La Fountain-Stokes** (U of Michigan), **Zorimar Rivera-Montes** (Tulane U), and **Joaquín Villanueva** (Gustavo Adolphus College). One more panel will take place in the spring semester, February 25th, entitled, “Latinx Labor and Reproductive Justice” with presentations by **Lina María Murillo** (University of Iowa), and **Sergio Lemus** (Texas A&M University). In October, the Wisconsin Latinx History Collective hosted its first Symposium. Prof. **Sergio González** (Marquette University) gave the keynote address, and several panels were held during two days on oral history, documenting stories, collaboration, particular stories of activism.

I am also pleased to see how our academic community in the CLS Program keeps growing. This fall semester, CLS welcome two more faculty affiliates. **Lola Loustau**, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Labor Education, in the School for Workers, whose research focuses on job quality, public policy, and collective organizing, and **Victor Goldgel-Carballo**, professor, novelist and H.I. Romnes Faculty Fellow in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, who studies race and ethnicity in a comparative frame, as well as media history, aesthetics, visual culture, and modernity.

For the last few semesters, Latinx students on campus have been discussing more inclusive names for the CLS Program (Latinx, Latina/o, Latine) since the Program has used Chican@ and Latin@ Studies for two decades. This fall semester, I decided to engage the entire CLS community in this discussion by organizing a series of dialogues. In the first virtual panel, **Karma Chávez** (UT Austin), **Louis DeSipio** (UC Irvine) and **José Jorge Mendoza** (university of Washington) shared their thoughts and wisdom on the question of how to define a community and an academic Program. A second virtual panel will take place in the spring semester.

Finally, our Administrative Manager, **Peter Haney**, was recognized with a University Staff Excellence Award in the fall semester. It was a timely recognition given the central role Peter plays in all developments and day-to-day work in the CLS Program. More than an administrator, Peter sometimes functions almost as an Associate Director of the Program (a title he held at the University of Kansas). As you can see, we had a productive and rewarding semester. It is an excellent stimulus for me as Director of the CLS.



Meet The CLS Team



Dr. Rubén Medina
Program Director



Peter Haney
Administrator



Rachelle Eilers
Advisor



Jessica Gomez
Project Assistant

CLS Student Workers



Vanessa Bello Ruiz
she/they/ella

My favorite part about CLS is Racheeeeelle!!! She is the most loving and amazing person who is the whole heart and soul of the program. She always creates a safe space where students can be themselves while meeting others around campus.



LenzyXelhua-Ledezma
she/her/ella

My favorite memory is working my first gathering. After that, I got to meet so many wonderful people and got to make so many connections.



Jesus Barraza Jr.
He/Him/Él

My favorite thing about CLS is how it can bring the Latine community together on campus. It is a warm and welcoming environment where our voices are powerful and unite as one.

welcome

Chican@ and Latin@ Studies Program

CLS Faculty & Affiliates

FALL 2023

Nidia Bañuelos

Assistant Professor of Adult, Continuing, and Higher Education

Theresa Delgadillo

Vilas Distinguished Achievement Professor, English and CLS

Edna Ely-Ledesma

Assistant Professor, Planning & Landscape Architecture

Falina Enriquez

Associate Professor, Anthropology

Alberta M. Gloria

Professor, Counseling Psychology

Victor Goldgel-Carballo

Professor, Spanish & Portuguese

Paola Hernández

Professor, Spanish & Portuguese

Armando Ibarra

Vilas Distinguished Achievement Professor, School for Workers and CLS

Kathryn Kirchgaser

Assistant Professor, Curriculum & Instruction

Michael Light

Professor, Sociology and CLS

Lola Lostaunau

Assistant Professor, School for Workers

Benjamin Márquez

Professor, Political Science

Sara McKinnon

Professor, Communication Arts

Rubén Medina

Professor, Spanish & Portuguese and CLS

Jorell Meléndez-Badillo

Assistant Professor of History

Almita Miranda

Assistant Professor, Geography and CLS

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 CLS

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 CLS

Carolina Sarmiento

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

Revel Sims

Assistant Professor, Planning and Landscape Architecture and CLS

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 2023 Faculty Updates



Aurora Santiago-Ortiz published “La urgencia de una pedagogía feminista decolonial en Puerto Rico” in *Centro: Journal of the Center for Puerto Rican Studies*. The article examines a curricular intervention at the University of Puerto Rico Cayey that seeks to address the recent resurgence of gender-based violence on the island. She also published ““Our Action Plan was Completely Changed’: Adapting, surviving, and collaborating through participatory action research during the Covid-19 pandemic” in *Anthropology and Education Quarterly*. Finally, together with Fátima Espinoza Vázquez, she published “Combining Intergroup Dialogue and Sociotechnical Infrastructure Design: Addressing Social and Technical Determinants of Health Information Disparities with the Latinx Community” in the *International Journal of Qualitative Methods*.

Almita Miranda (Geography/CLS) **Diego Román** (Curriculum & Instruction), **Cheryl Jiménez-Frei** (UW Eau Claire), and **Tess Arenas** (CLS Emerita) secured an implementation grant for the “¡Presente! Documenting Latinx History in Wisconsin” project. The team will create an online digital edition including documents, oral history interviews, and other materials about Latine history in Wisconsin that will be available to teachers at the K-12 and university levels. The news came just as the team was completing the implantation grant, which lasted from 2021 until the end of 2023. Renewal of the grant will be possible for up to 10 years.



Marla Ramírez, (History/CLS) won the Article Award from the Oral History Association, the principal membership organization for people committed to the value of oral history in the United States for her essay “Gendered Banishment: Rewriting Mexican Repatriation through a Transgenerational Oral History Methodology”. Published in 2022, the article is part of a special issue of the journal *Latino Studies* featuring several contributions by researchers affiliated with the UW-Madison Chican@ & Latin@ Studies Program. It examines the lasting effects of the banishment of U.S. citizens of Mexican descent during the so-called repatriation campaigns of the 1930s, drawing both on interviews with individuals and larger intergenerational focus groups. Dr. Ramírez accepted the award at the Association’s October annual meeting.



Rubén Medina (Spanish and Portuguese/CLS) published “El poder de la ficción y la ficción del poder” in *¿Qué hay Detrás de la Ventana? Letra/Imagen/ Música/Arte X Roberto Bolaño*, a volume edited by Nibaldo Cáceres and Rodrigo Carvacho, and “Infrarrealismo: Una vanguardia latinoamericana o los niños perdidos de Guy Debord” in *Infrarrealistas en Chile: Ecos de las imágenes de una vanguardia chilanga*, edited by Rafael Torriz. Dr. Medina was also awarded a sabbatical for Fall 2024. A longtime member of the CLS faculty, he will complete his third year as Director of the Program in May 2024.

Ben Márquez (Political Science), gave an interview to NPR’s Franco Ordoñez for a story about the Latine vote in Wisconsin that ran in August. Prof. Márquez explained that while voters of Latin American descent tend to vote Democratic, they are not “committed Democratic ideologues.” He noted that Republicans sought to “take a big chunk out of the traditional Democratic vote” rather than winning the Latine vote outright. Watch for more “hot takes” from CLS faculty as the 2024 elections heat up this Spring!



Armando Ibarra’s (School for Workers/CLS) research, was cited in a Pro Publica story on the problems facing undocumented dairy workers who cannot get driver’s licenses. *Pro Publica’s* reporters turned to a needs assessment written by Armando and his colleague Alexia Kulwiec of the School for Workers, which was published in April, 2023. The story also ran in the Sunday paper edition of the *Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel*. In addition to his academic work, Prof. Ibarra saw his family grow this Fall. He and his wife **Veronica** welcomed new son **Luciano Clemente** at the beginning of December.

Revel Sims (Planning & Landscape Architecture/CLS) and **Carolina Sarmiento** (Civil Society and Community Studies) published “Squeezed in and pushed out: dual and contradictory displacements in Santa Ana, CA” in the urban studies journal *City*.



Faculty & Staff Spotlight

Welcome to Our New Faculty Affiliates

Lola Loustaunau

(pronouns she/her/ella)



I am a researcher, teacher, and activist from Argentina and joined the UW-Madison School for Workers this past year. As an anti-racist feminist labor scholar, I take an intersectional approach to studying work, gender, migration, health, emotions, and organizing. I seek to understand the work experiences of Latinx migrants, looking at the bodily and emotional impacts of work, and the ways workers organize to contest and transform their working conditions. I collaborate with worker and community organizations to produce research that is relevant to them and that can inform public policy, and I aim to bring these experiences and partnerships to the classroom. I am excited to have joined CLS as an affiliate faculty member, and I look forward to working with students in the classroom and on different projects!

Víctor Goldgel-Carballo

Prof. Goldgel-Carballo is an H.I Romnes Faculty Fellows and Professor in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese and a new Faculty Affiliate at the Chican@ & Latin@ Studies Program. He teaches courses on Latin American, Afro-Latin American, and Latinx cultures and literatures. He is the author of *Cuando lo nuevo conquistó América. Prensa, moda y literatura en el siglo XIX* (Buenos Aires: Siglo XXI, 2013), which won prizes for best book from the Latin American Studies Association and Casa de las Américas. His other publications engage with a wide range of topics, including snobbery, piracy, and spectrality. A recipient of fellowships from the Social Science Research Council and the American Council of Learned Societies, among others, he is currently finishing a new book, tentatively entitled *Racial Doubt: Slavery, Passing, and Black Writing in Cuba*.



Peter Haney receives University Staff Excellence Award

CLS Administrator Peter Haney was recognized with the University Staff Excellence Award from the College of Letters and Science this Fall. He was one of five University Staff members so honored. We are so proud to have someone like Dr. Peter Haney on the CLS team! Trained as an anthropological folklorist, Dr. Haney was Assistant Director in the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies at the University of Kansas before coming to the University of Wisconsin.

What's New At CLS?

SPREADING OUR WINGS



On Monday, September 25th, 2023, the Chican@ and Latin@ Studies program along with the Latinx Cultural Center celebrated the new CLS major and the art gallery opening for Latina/x/e Heritage Month.

The CLS program would like to thank all those involved in making the Chican@ and Latin@ Studies major! We know it will play a pivotal role in the future of our students. Because Latine communities are the fastest growing minority in Wisconsin, it is important to have courses that shine a light on the history of the Latine experience. We are excited to be a part of the trailblazing efforts in having a major like this one, not just in Wisconsin, but nationwide.

NAME CHANGE CONVERSATIONS

What should a program devoted to the study of communities of Latin American descent in the United States call itself? If the communities lumped together under labels like “Hispanic,” “Latina/o,” “Latinx,” and “Latine” don’t agree on a common term, what then? How should gender affect the way we evaluate panethnic labels? All this has been on the minds of the CLS *familia* of late. Early on, many students and faculty advocated for “Latinx,” arguing that the Program’s current name, “Chican@ & Latin@ Studies,” adopted during the directorship of Camille Guérin-Gonzales, is outdated and naturalizes an oppressive gender binary. Recently, however, “Latinx” has fallen out of favor with many, while “Latine,” which some observers see as working more naturally in Spanish, has gained support. After a series of conversations with students last year, the CLS Program organized a virtual panel on the question featuring experts **Karma Chávez** (University of Texas-Austin), **Louis DeSipio** (University of California, Irvine), and **José Jorge Mendoza** (University of Washington). The **Latinx Cultural Center** and the CLS Program later held an in-person panel at the Multicultural Student Center featuring UW-Madison Profs. **Aurora Santiago Ortiz** (CLS/Gender & Women’s Studies), **Jorell Meléndez-Badillo** (History), and CLS Director **Rubén Medina** (Spanish & Portuguese). The program anticipates holding further such sessions in the Spring as faculty decide whether to change the Program’s name. Such a move would represent the third name change of a program devoted to U.S. ethnic and indigenous nations studies at the UW-Madison since 2022. The former department of Afro-American studies changed to “**African American Studies**” last year, while the former American Indian Studies Program became “**American Indian and Indigenous Studies**” around the same time.



CLS Students join Latinx Cultural Center Director Natalie Ergas during the second “What’s in a Name?” Discussion in the Multicultural Student Center

PUERTO RICAN STUDIES IN THE MIDWEST AND BEYOND

The new CLS lecture series returned with two panels on Puerto Rican Studies featuring several notable scholars in the field. The first, held September 27th, focused on Puerto Rican communities in the U.S. Midwest. Prof. **Mirelsie Velázquez** of the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, discussed schooling and Puerto Rican migration to Chicago, focusing on the struggle of Puerto Rican communities for educational opportunity. For her part, **Sara Awartani** of the University of Michigan shared the seldom-heard story of the convergence between Puerto Rican and Palestinian liberation movements in Michigan. Finally, **Maura Toro-Morn** of Illinois State University explored the intellectual history of Puerto Rican Studies, the field's connections with Chicago, and its many challenges. On October 25th, a second panel focused on the island itself. **Joaquín Villanueva** of Gustavus Adolphus College examined the writings of the scholar Antonio Pedreira and the racialization of populations who live in the tropics. **Lawrence La Fountain-Stokes** of the University of Michigan and **Zorimar Rivera-Montes** of Tulane University both examined gender and sexuality in contemporary Puerto Rican culture, with a focus on performance artists such as Awilda Rodríguez ("La Performera"). Attendance at the events was extremely strong, and students and faculty enjoyed a rich dialogue with the panelists. For Spring 2024, the Program will host another panel titled "Latinx Labor and Reproductive Justice at the Border and in the Midwest" on February 22, featuring **Sergio Lemus** of Texas A&M University and **Lina-María Murillo** of the University of Iowa. As the CLS Newsletter went to press, plans were afoot to organize a book presentation by **Sergio González** of Marquette University as a final event in the series. Friends of CLS should watch their "in" boxes for information about that event. The CLS Program would like to congratulate **Aurora Santiago-Ortiz** for her excellent work organizing this year's series and **Theresa Delgadillo**, who started it all last year. Special thanks are also due to the **Anonymous Fund** and the **Center for Latin American, Caribbean, and Iberian Studies** (LACIS), which provided major support for the event, as well as co-sponsoring departments including **Anthropology, English, Gender & Women's Studies, Geography, History, and Sociology**.

JESÚS SALAS CELEBRATES BOOK PUBLICATION

On Wednesday, September 20th, at the Wisconsin Historical Society, **Jesús Salas** recalled the struggle of Wisconsin farmworkers during the 1960s and 1970s as he discussed his new book *Obreros Unidos: The Roots and Legacy of the Farmworkers Movement* with Marquette University's **Sergio González**. Salas is a revered labor organizer, a champion of Latine educational justice, a former Regent of the Universities of Wisconsin, and an important benefactor of the CLS Program. As a child, he worked with his family as a seasonal agricultural laborer. After his parents moved to Wisconsin, Salas became a vocal advocate for farmworkers and helped found the pioneering union "Obreros Unidos." He has also served as CEO of United Migrant Opportunity Services (UMOS), the state's premier social service organization for farmworkers and taught at Milwaukee Area Technical College for many years. Following introductions by former CLS Director **Armando Ibarra** and current CLS Director **Rubén Medina**, Salas and González, skillfully wove historical observations and personal recollections into a vivid account of the glory days of the movement before a large and engaged audience. The event was part of the Wisconsin Book Festival and organized by the Wisconsin Historical Society, which is the publisher of Regent Salas's book.

Fall Symposium -- Wisconsin Latinx History Collective

By: Vanessa Peña, Almita Miranda, Cheryl Jiménez Frei, and Diego Róman

On October 20, 2023, the Wisconsin Latinx History Collective (WLHC) hosted its first symposium on the Latinx presence in Wisconsin. The public event, held at the Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS), was a resounding success, with over 80 in-person attendees and an additional 40 guests joining over Zoom. The symposium gathered faculty, staff, students, and community partners as they engaged in a full day of presentations and insightful conversations about the historical and growing presence of Latinx communities in the state, and the importance of building collaborative research partnerships between the academy and local communities. Founded in 2020 by Dr. **Andrea-Teresa “Tess” Arenas**, the Wisconsin Latinx History Collective (“the Collective”) began as a core group of faculty from the University of Wisconsin system and Marquette University, dedicated to highlighting the stories of Latinas/os/xs/es often omitted from traditional historical records. Building on Arenas and **Eloisa Gómez’s** successful Somos Latinas Oral History Project, the Collective has grown to include a network of faculty, students, and community researchers, partnering with the Wisconsin Historical Society and others, to document and preserve the rich history and contemporary contributions of diverse Latinx communities in urban and rural Wisconsin. This work has received funding from the Baldwin Wisconsin Idea Endowment, the National Archives NHPRC-Mellon Start-Up Grant, and private gifts.



(Left to Right: Andrea ‘Tess’ Arenas, Yolanda Garza, Barbara Medina, Maria Rodriguez, Eloisa Gómez, Somos Latinas Advisory Board, 2023).



WLHC core members, research assistants, and guests having a celebratory dinner at La Taguara, Madison, 2023.

Historian **Sergio M. González**, an Assistant Professor at Marquette University and a UW-Madison alumnus, delivered the keynote address, combining his research on Latino communities in Wisconsin with a larger discussion on challenging homogenizing narratives of an imagined Midwest. WLHC core members, community researchers, and students followed with a series of presentations highlighting the work that has been done over the past three years, including the collection of over 100 new oral histories and the surveying of 19 new archival collections with Latinx communities in Milwaukee, Madison, Eau Claire, La Crosse, Waupaca, and Green Bay. These materials will be donated to WHS for long-term preservation and public access, and later digitized in a bilingual digital edition website, “¡Presente!: Documenting Latinx History in Wisconsin.”

The first panel on oral histories featured the work of history students, **Lezly Vejar** and **Zevdah Drizin**, students of **Dr. Marla Ramírez**. They used oral history to study shifting

notions of Latinidad and belonging among 1.5 and 2nd generation youth. Expanding the conversation on Latinx identity and culture in the diaspora, **Dr. Diego Román** (Assist. Professor of Curriculum and Instruction at UW-Madison) presented his work with **Luis González-Quizhpe** (Ed.M. Candidate at Harvard University and UW-Madison Alum) to document stories of Saraguro communities—originally from the Southern Andes of Ecuador—living in rural Wisconsin. **Dr. Cheryl Jiménez Frei** (Assist. Professor of History and co-director of the Public History Program at UW-Eau Claire), and **Dr. Elena Casey** (Assist. Professor of Languages at UW-Eau Claire) shared their work on “Voces del Campo/Rural Voices,” an oral history project documenting stories of Latinx farmworker communities in rural western Wisconsin. Leading the panel on community archives, **Dr. Almita Miranda** (Asst. Professor of Geography and Chican@ and Latin@ Studies at UW-Madison) discussed the importance of collaboration and shared authority as core principles for building the ¡Presente! Digital Edition. Miranda highlighted the cultural and labor history of the family’s migration to Wisconsin and the significance of community and social networks that helped sustain them in Milwaukee’s south side. **Dr. Yesenia Cervera** (Assist. Professor in Race and Ethnic Studies at UW-Whitewater), **Dr. Arenas**, and **Maria Rodriguez** gave a fireside chat presentation on the “Somos Latinas” collection, featuring Rodriguez’ extraordinary life and activism to expand voting rights and bilingual and bicultural education in Milwaukee.

Following on the themes of migration and community (or lack thereof), Dr. **José Villagrán** (Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Texas at San Antonio) offered a moving critique of the racial discrimination and labor exploitation that Texan seasonal migrants have suffered in Wisconsin’s agricultural sector based on his research and his family’s oral histories and archives.



For the final panel on student research, undergraduate and graduate students were given a platform to present their theoretical and empirical contributions from CLS-WLHC courses and independent study, emphasizing the Collective’s commitment to fostering the next generation of scholars. Student presentations began with **Jonathan Almeda Vega’s** discussion of Puerto Rican identity in Milwaukee and **Melina Mueller’s** archival work on the life of **Ricardo González** (the first openly gay Latine elected to public office in the U.S. and founder of the Cardinal bar in Madison. **Alexandra Moreno** then followed with a feminist testimonio podcast she created with her sister, a nursing student and parent. Finally, **Verenize Arceo** shared her contributions to WLHC as former project manager. The work of the WLHC will continue, and additional collections will be identified and processed so that there is no doubt of the significant contributions of Latinx communities. As of November 2023, WLHC core members were awarded a new implementation grant from the National Archives to continue their work on the “¡Presente!” Digital Edition, a 10-year project that will contribute to Latinx Digital Humanities, History, Geography, and Education from a community-centered approach. The 2023 WLHC symposium was not just a moment in time but a catalyst for continued exploration and acknowledgment of the role Latinx communities play in shaping Wisconsin and the larger Midwest. The Collective looks forward to this ongoing journey of collaboration, discovery, and activist scholarship. To stay updated on WLHC’s progress and new developments, you can visit their website at <http://www.latinxwisconsin.org> or follow them on social media (Facebook: @Wisconsin Latinx History Collective; Instagram: @latinxwisconsin_wlhc).

Note From the CLS Advisor



Hola a todos! For those of you who do not know me, my name is Rachelle Eilers and this is my 9th year working as the Chicla Advisor. I am a proud CLS alumni, I completed my certificate while I was an undergraduate at UW-Madison. I love the unique situation I am in that I was able to take some of the same classes our current undergraduates take. I took two classes with Prof. Ben Márquez and learned more in his classes than any I took at UW. I took even more classes than necessary for the certificate. Fortunately, for students like me, they can now apply those extra classes to our new Chicla major! This fall the Chican@ & Latin@ Studies Program launched the Chicla major. The major is 10 total classes (30 credits). Certificate students can simply switch to the major by taking 5 additional upper level courses.

The requirements are as follows: Introduction to Chican@ & Latin@ Studies (Chicla 201), and additional intro-level course, and eight 300+ level courses from three categories including: Cultures and Histories, Individuals, Peoples, Societies, and Serving Chicanx & Latinx Communities. Thus far we have 40 students declared in the Chicla major. Of those 40, we expect 16 of them to graduate this May 2024. We are thrilled to be able to offer the first Chican@ & Latin@ Studies major in the State of Wisconsin. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this unique accomplishment!

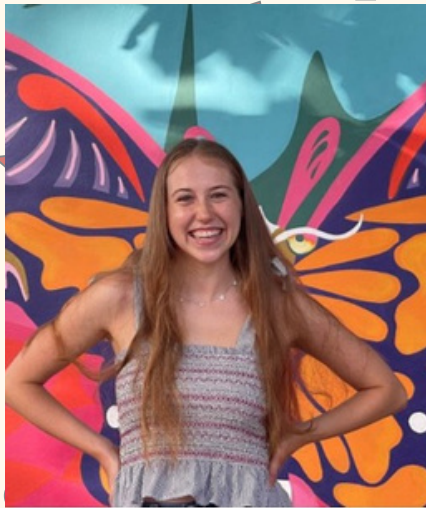


Photos are from fall 2023 Chicla Community Gathering luncheons

happy GRADUATION



Isabel Montes de Oca
B.S., Biochemistry



Clara Merkel
B.S., Neurobiology, Spanish and
LACIS



Rachael Tzung-Ting Lang
B.S., Computer Science
Certificates: Data Science



Students Clara and Rachael with advisor Rachelle at the Fall 2023 Graduation

Student Spotlight

Michelle Gongora's Summer Experience



This summer, I had the opportunity to intern abroad through the International Internship Program at UW Madison. This internship was based in Santiago, Chile, at a law firm called Cruz Abogados. Throughout, I worked closely with attorney Sergio Cruz, doing fascinating work on renewable energy in Chile. During this project, I learned about the National Green Hydrogen strategy plan implemented in Chile and all the different environmental laws, which are different from those of the US. The firm works with all the contracts needed between partnering companies and construction firms, as well as making sure project proposals comply with the law. One of the companies Cruz represents is the Transitional Energy Group, also known as TEG Chile. This company plans to take Chile further up the ranks of countries that produce

green hydrogen through their project, “Gente Grande.” which will use wind turbines in the southern Tierra de Fuego region.

In addition to learning about how a law firm works, I also accompanied lawyers working pro bono, to visit different locations in Santiago, from the supreme courts to the offices of notaries. Through this internship, I was able to see how corporate law, contracts, and environmental law work. I now realize that I am interested in an environmental law career.



Being able to live in a different country for three months allowed me to truly immerse myself in a new environment. I was excited to see the city and the environmental projects going on there. Chile has worked to better the environment in large and small ways. For example, not once throughout my stay did I use a plastic straw. Paper or bamboo straws are used instead. Overall my time abroad showed me just how big the world truly is. It made me aware that there are so many people on this earth and how different and similar we can be to each other. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to explore beautiful Santiago, to learn about its history and culture, and as meet Chileans and learn from them. I think that these experiences from this past summer will impact my future life, as they have inspired me not only to seek a career in environmental law, but also to learn more about different cultures and places. I would like to extend my gratitude to the CLS Program, because thanks to the SOMOS Scholarship, I was able to fund this amazing experience.

Rachael Lang's Educational Experience

This past summer, I interned as a software engineer at Target, where I worked on front-end web development. This was a great opportunity for me to improve my technical skills and network with really cool people. The position was mostly remote, but next summer, I'm excited to be doing a second rotation in-person at Target headquarters in Minneapolis. I was born in the United States, but grew up in Taiwan, so I see myself as Taiwanese American. From my experience in CLS, I've realized that the Latino experience in the United States is actually very similar to the Asian American experience. There are a lot of parallels in the themes and hardships, such as being an immigrant or growing up multicultural. I find myself relating to a lot of the stories I learn in class or hear from peers in the CLS program.

Sarai Gonzalez Perez's Summer Experience

In May of 2023, I started working as an intern with the Expenditure Accounting Department of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. When I first started, I wanted to make a positive impact, but I was afraid I would not have enough to do. I shouldn't have worried! Within the first week, I was doing Accounts Payable tasks such as receiving invoices from different vendors and connecting with them to get these paid. I really enjoyed my summer at the DNR, because their fiscal year end is during the summer, so my coworkers and I were busy. That gave me the opportunity to learn about the complex situations they deal with all the time. Aside from processing invoices and working with vendors, I processed mail, scanned documents, and did filing. My supervisor and my coworkers were always helpful, and I just forced myself to ask questions, and be curious in order to make the best of my learning experience. Closer to summer's end, they asked me to continue working for them and move to Accounts Receivable, and I accepted. Now I work on collections, going through our system for people who have invoices in collections, and sending those final past-due notices.

I've always tried to be appreciative and ask my supervisor to give me feedback or just ways I can better myself as a current employee for them. The job is laid back. Once you know what you're supposed to be doing, "you do you," as they say. Everyone is happy to help within the DNR, and I'm glad I have found mentors there for whatever questions or concerns may arise in my future.

Luvia Montoya's Summer Abroad



Over the summer I had the opportunity to participate in a study abroad program through the Department of Kinesiology called UW Movement as Medicine in Portugal at Universidade Lusófona in Lisbon, Portugal. At this institution, we learned about how physical activity and sedentary behavior impact overall health outcomes. We also made comparisons between the healthcare systems of the United States and Portugal. My main takeaway from the program was how important it is to be curious and open-minded. I could have learned about Portugal's healthcare system here in the United States, but it was way different to learn about it while immersed in the country's culture and environment. My advice to folks who want to study abroad is to take the oppor-

tunity and let yourself be open to new things because it will only further your learning as a student and as an aspiring professional.

Surina Marced Martinez's Study Abroad & Internship Experience

During Summer 2023, I had the opportunity to participate in the UW Education, Diversity and Community Program in the Galápagos Islands. The experience focused on the diversity within the island's biodiversity and in education policy and practice. I was taking Curriculum Development and Galapagueño Diversity course which emphasized the importance of language ideologies as it is a cultural conception through the lens of nature, structure and behavior. Language is linked to identities, institutions, and values in all societies. During my time abroad I was able to use my Spanish and English skills to connect with local community members and learn some Quichua which is the second national language of Ecuador. I had the opportunity to do tours in the mainland, visit bicultural schools and practice developing

lesson plans for students from pre-K through 7th grade. For students who are looking into study abroad I would suggest identifying what types of learning experiences (personal, professional, and academic), duration, and location you'd want to have and then filtering programs.

I am currently a Badger Volunteer Sustainability Intern at the Morgridge Center. I began this position in August 2023 and plan to continue through the 2023-2024 academic year. My duties include recruiting volunteers to engage in volunteering opportunities during the Fall and Spring semester with our community partners. I also facilitate Educational sessions for volunteers to expand their understanding in service work and general topics within Education, Public Health, and Sustainability. Additionally, I support other program teams within the Morgridge Center--whether this means supporting committees, making pins, appearing in videos to highlight information on our social media, etc. I applied for this position to get more involved on campus and learn more about the Madison community. Since middle school I have always volunteered in my school and with local government and have found every experience educational and rewarding. This role combined my interests and has given me the opportunity to expand my professional skills, because before this I have only worked service jobs. Through this internship I have been able to facilitate orientations, education sessions, and track the experiences of our Badger increase these numbers for Spring 2024. I work with such a diverse and amazing team, which makes going into the office more rewarding. The Morgridge Center has amazing opportunities for students, and I think my connections and passion can help their mission.



Photo credit to Ray Kirsch for WSUM News.

Student Brag Board

The Student Brag Board is a space where we share all that our amazing CLS students have been up to!

- ★ Diana Bonilla, Ava Peplinski, Yeraldy Ramirez-Estanislao, and Mariela Sida began undergrad research with the Wisconsin Latinx Historical Collective.
- ★ Jesús Barraza Jr. had a summer internship with Chicago CTA.
- ★ Jasmine Zarate and Nicole Mendez were admitted to the UW School of Nursing.
- ★ Adrian Jauregui began research with HDFS Prof. Quentin Riser surrounding the association between early income variation around poverty thresholds and started an internship at the Morgridge Center.
- ★ Jheison Garcia Garcia traveled to Mexico this summer through the Dreamers at UW-Madison and took two classes at UNAM. He is also a Financial Planning Intern at LBW wealth management.
- ★ Rayane Prado Nunes is a Research Assistant at the Infant Learning Lab at the Social Kids Lab.
- ★ Kathy Gonzalez De Vicente is a Jail Intake Intern at the State Public Defender's Office.
- ★ Rachael Lang was admitted to the UW's Master of Science in Computer Sciences Professional Program! She also spent this summer at Target interning as a Software Engineer.
- ★ Juan Carlos Garcia Martinez interned at *Milwaukee* Magazine this summer.
- ★ Amaryssa Garcia had an internship this summer as a Social Justice Intern at Healthy Hood Chicago.
- ★ Kelly Carranza continuous service as the Latinx Heritage Month Intern for the Latinx Cultural Center.
- ★ Nallely Pineda-Ortiz began interning at Office of Kelda Roys, Member of the Wisconsin State Senate.
- ★ Grad student Verenize Arceo and undergraduates Zevdah Drizin, Alexandra Moreno, Melina Mueller, and Lezly Vejar presented at the Wisconsin Latinx History Collective Symposium in October! Zevdah and Lezly also presented their WLHC papers at the Oral History Association's annual meeting in Baltimore, Maryland.



Students at our annual March Up Bascom

Alumni Spotlight

Liliana Ortiz's Journey After CLS

I am now working at the American Family Children's Hospital at UW on what is called a "pediatric universal care unit". My unit specializes to treat kids ages 0-18 who are often trach/ventilator dependent, experiencing respiratory illness, seizure disorders, type 1 diabetes and lastly those with renal disorders. I knew pediatric nursing was the speciality I wanted to work in after nannying my younger cousin with down syndrome during the pandemic and getting to work with his team of occupation and physical therapists. The most rewarding part of my job is getting to work with and care for the entire family unit, comforting not only the child but their parents in what can be some of the most challenging and scary moments. One recommendation I have for anyone who wants to go into pediatrics or any other specialty is to look for an internship that can give you hands-on experience with your desired population to expand on your knowledge and skills while also discovering your passion for what you do!



Marlen Gongora's Life After UW-Madison



I was first introduced to the CLS program, specifically Rachelle, by one of my closest friends and CLS staff members shortly after a conversation about the neglect and disconnection we felt when talking to our original school advisor. Ever since then, I would swear that one meeting with Rachelle could change your life for the better. And I still stand by it! I wholeheartedly believe that I wouldn't have graduated within four years if it weren't for the program's academic advising services and the community support it provides.

Since graduating in the Spring of 2022, I've had the opportunity to delve into various roles within my fields of interest, which include journalism, communications, health equity, and education. I started my summer after commencement interning as a Health reporter at Madison 365, a nonprofit online news publication that covers communities of color. Here, I was able to cover a variety of profile stories on professionals and leaders in the Madison community who are working towards different health equity goals, including one of my most memorable assignments covering the Foundation for Black Women's Wellness.

After my time with *Madison365*, I decided to move back home to Chicago. I was working as a full-time substitute teacher at my former elementary school on the Southwest side of the city, where I worked with primarily bilingual and English learning students in grades Pre-K through 8th grade. I saw this as an opportunity to give back to and serve my community in the city. Working as a substitute teacher took me back to when I was a student, and it reminded me of the village of educators it took to get me to one of the top public institutions in the nation. Wanting to be a part of that magic encouraged me to continue working for the school district. I transitioned from my teaching position to the Communications Department at Chicago Public Schools (CPS).

In this new role, I communicate important information and resources to school staff and administrators, CPS students, and their families. My department prides itself in balancing the bad with “good news” happening in our District through feature-writing of students and staff in our CPS blog or publications like our *Principal Magazine*. It is vital to continue to use our platform to boost our people's accomplishments and inspirational stories, especially in a school district where most students and staff are people of color or are from low-income communities that mainstream media outlets constantly criminalize. It has also allowed me to meet many inspirational people in our District, including Terell Tomlin, a school counselor at Garvey Elementary, and four outstanding 2022 8th-grade graduates from Taclott Elementary.



Outside of my professional role, I’ve had the great opportunity to serve as head coach of a middle school Competitive Cheerleading team. With the help of my sister and cheer friends, I’ve been able to build the program from the ground up. I would be lying if I said I didn’t owe it all to the CLS program. Without it, I wouldn’t have learned so much about myself and my Latinidad, which has served as a framework when approaching my work in writing. Without the endless support from CLS, Rachelle, and the student staff members of my time (Jess, Lenzy, Alma, and Raquel), I wouldn’t have taken one giant step out of my comfort zone to be where I am today. And wherever life takes me next, I will always carry CLS in my heart.

Carlos Puga’s Graduate School Journey

First and foremost, thank you to the CLS Program for the support, care, and guidance that it has provided me since I arrived at UW-Madison. I am forever grateful for the opportunities and people I have been able to meet thanks to the program. I graduated from UW with a Bachelor of Science in Economics, Political Science, and Legal Studies and a certificate in Chican@ & Latin@ Studies. I continue my work here at UW-Madison as I pursue a J.D. at the Law School and a Master’s in Public Affairs at the La Follette School of Public Affairs. While many changes are on the horizon for the CLS program, from a new building to formalizing a CLS major, a never-changing foundational aspect continues to persist: *nuestra comunidad*. Our community extends beyond the confines of Ingraham Hall. The importance and value of community is held in high esteem by all members of the CLS program. Together we have been able to uplift the CLS program and each other in the process. As a first-generation Latino student, I understand that studying at a predominantly white campus brings many challenges and battles. If you feel the same way, don’t go it alone. Trust those around you and reach out for support. Whether it may be to your fellow students or CLS staff like Rachelle, they are here to help and see you succeed. I strive forward in my pursuits to represent and advocate for marginalized and underrepresented communities in Wisconsin and throughout our nation. As I continue to look ahead and enter spaces in which few from *nuestra comunidad* are represented. I do not hesitate, for I know that I am not alone. I have the unconditional support of my community who is behind me. I proudly carry the voices and hopes of more than my own. Therefore, I remind everyone to “lift as you climb” so that we may continue to rise together.

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.

CHICAN@ AND LATIN@ STUDIES UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

The CLS Program is open to undergraduate students of all majors and schools. Students are able to take courses on topics ranging from Latina Feminism to Political Economy of Race in the United States. The CLS Program is meant to exemplify the Wisconsin Idea, academic excellence, civic engagement, and diversity.



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DECLARE HERE:



SUPPORT THE FUTURE OF CLS

The Chican@ & Latin@ Studies Development 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.

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