

# ILACHE

## ILACHE News

[www.ilache.com](http://www.ilache.com)

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### ILACHE Colleague

We hope you enjoy the March-April 2010 edition of *ILACHE News* and look forward to your feedback.

### Saludos

I hope to see you all at the ILACHE conference on April 23 at St. Augustine College. Our conference theme is *"Investing in Latino Educational Attainment and Leadership: Making the Case During Challenging Economic Times."* This year it is imperative that we come together to discuss the state budget crisis and how it affects our students and the hard won Latino support programs that serve our students. We will also be showing the complete documentary "Storming the Gates: The Struggle for Higher Education in Illinois". This provocative film highlights the Latino and African American struggle for access to higher education. It



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## Congratulations

**Dr. Santos Rivera appointed  
to the Illinois Board of  
Higher Education  
(IBHE)**



Dr. Rivera is Senior Executive Director Emeritus at Northeastern Illinois University where he developed the ENLACE Fellows Program. ENLACE helps Latino students earn graduate degrees and build leadership skills. Dr. Rivera earned degrees from Aurora College, Northeastern Illinois University, and The Union Institute Graduate School.

also chronicles the history of ILACHE and many Latino educators and their fight to open the doors of Illinois universities.

Our keynote speaker this year will be Dr. Carlos Azcotia, board member of Northeastern Illinois University. He will share with us his knowledge of the current economic crisis and his insights as a board member. We will also give our members an update of ILACHE's activities this year, which have been numerous. Lastly, it will be a chance for us to network and come together as a community.

I look forward to reconnecting with you in April.

Warm regards,

Elizabeth Ortiz

## Commentary: Sucking the Life out of the American Dream



Back in the 1950s anyone who questioned the direction of the country was told that they did not appreciate how good we had it here. The U.S. was the greatest show on Earth. It was the most prosperous nation, a beacon of democracy shining out to the world, which was founded on solid humanitarian and democratic values. In order to preserve its traditions the country developed good public schools and the finest

## **ILACHE Scholarship**

**New Deadline**

**June 1, 2010**

**ILACHE**

Two \$1000 scholarships will be awarded to a Latino (a) student enrolled or planning to enroll in the fall in a regionally accredited Illinois college or university. Selection will be based on academic record, personal statement, recommendations, and demonstrated commitment to community/campus /high school service.

Applications are available at [www.ilache.com](http://www.ilache.com)

universities in the world that were available to anyone with the desire and drive to uplift themselves no matter how lowly their original station. Nowhere else did people have better opportunities for success than in a country whose collective goal was the continuous expansion of the middle class.

The social contract that was created provided employment and financial security as compensation for years of hard work and personal sacrifice made for the greater common good. The reward for high levels of productivity and loyalty was ever greater benefits for the generations that followed. What was not gained immediately could be garnered by successive generations because the trajectory was ever upwards along a conveyor belt of continuous progress. The social contract that unified the majority to a common purpose and singular vision was embedded in the "public": common schools, good government that protected the interests of John Q. Public and a well functioning democracy where individuals had a fair, if not equal, access to the mechanisms of democracy. This was the message if not the practice.

Fast forward to the Twenty-First Century and the new realities of globalization and wealthy first state policy. Even the most optimistic of economists who believe we have stepped out of the worst of the current recession predict that under and unemployment will remain with us for many years. High levels of unemployment may even

## El Puente Gala



After the ILACHE Conference on April 23, join St. Augustine College as we celebrate El Puente Gala at El Aragon Entertainment Center. Please "Save the Date". For more information, please contact us

Alfredo Calixto at [acalixto@staugustine.edu](mailto:acalixto@staugustine.edu)

Grace Valadez at [valadez@staugustine.edu](mailto:valadez@staugustine.edu).

## Tuition Waivers Eliminated

The Illinois House of Representatives recently voted to eliminate the Illinois General Assembly Legislative Scholarships. Each legislator was assigned two scholarships which was used to waive tuition at a state-supported university.

be a permanent feature of the globalized economy. And what of the public spirit that was so much a part of the Americanism of the Twentieth Century?

Perhaps indicative of the preeminence of business values is the reaction to a proposed extension of unemployment benefits. Helping those who through no fault of their own find themselves without work is seen by some congressional conservatives as encouraging laziness. Many of the same voices that supported bailouts paid for by John Q. Public now wag their critical tongues against the supposed profligate attitudes of American workers spoon fed on a steady diet of entitlements: job security, defined pension plans, subsidized education, and health care. It is the over indulged middle and working classes that desire quality schools, subsidized state universities, and a say in government policy.

In this more savage version of the American Dream promoted by the Friedmanites, "public" has become a dirty word and replaced by the heralded "private"; government for the people is substituted by government in the interests of the people as decided by those who believe they know what's best for the people. Where these new values lead us should by now be apparent. Torture is necessary if regrettable. Unquestioning support of Patriot Acts that may control us more than they protect us is the loyalty tax we are expected to pay. Education should be first and foremost a business opportunity, run

## Be Counted



**April 1, 2010  
is  
Census Day**

**Be Counted**

[www.votolatino.org](http://www.votolatino.org)

**ILACHE Board**

[ilache@ilache.com](mailto:ilache@ilache.com)

Teresita Diaz, Treasurer

Scholarship Committee  
Conference Committee  
Director, Project Success and  
Proyecto Pa'Lante  
*Northeastern Illinois University*

by highly paid managers and bureaucrats not educators. The recent Supreme Court decision sanctifies a process that was already evident in the congressional mobilization against single payer health care and a public option. Obama is not an innocent bystander in the process. He is doing his part to further the schemes of the wolf pack shredding the vestiges of the "public" spirit of the old state. Even at the height of his now declining support for a public option, Obama championed the interests of the new business state as exemplified by his support of charter schools over the common public school.

In a recent study of long term mobility among the richest nations of the world, the U.S. was no longer ranked at the top. According to this report, other countries provide those living within its borders greater economic opportunities and a better quality of life. How quickly and how far we will descend down the Dream spiral might depend on what remains of our sense of a public consciousness.

Leonard Ramirez, Ph.D.  
Director LARES Program  
University of Illinois at Chicago

## The Many Colors of Literacy: An Exploration of the Adolescent Experience



The poster session titled, "The Many Colors of Literacy: An Exploration of the

## ILACHE Board

Daniel ópez, Jr., Secretary  
Scholarship Committee  
Conference Committee  
Director, NEIU-EI Centro &  
Associatet Dean of Academic  
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*Northeastern Illinois University*  
[conference@ilache.com](mailto:conference@ilache.com)

Adele Lozano  
Membership Committee  
Conference Committee  
Director, La Casa Cultural Latina &  
Assistant Dean  
*University of Illinois at  
Urbana Champaign*

Elizabeth Ortiz, President  
Conference Committee  
Policy Committee  
Vice President Office of Institutional  
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Membership Committee  
President, *St. Augustine College*

Maria Luisa Zamudio  
Membership Committee  
Coordinator of Bilingual Teacher  
Education  
*Illinois State University*

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Fausto Ortiz, Coordinator  
of ILACHE  
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Mike Heimsoth

Adolescent Experience," will be held from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, at the Duke Ellington Ballroom, Holmes Student Center at NIU. Sponsors of the event include the NIU Center for Interdisciplinary Study of Language and Literacy, and the Latino Resource Center.

The Offices of Academic and Student Affairs will jointly support a group of students who will be sharing successful literacy practices used in their educational experiences. Students from DeKalb High School and NIU's CHANCE program will be showcasing their poster presentations on literacy learning at Northern Illinois University (NIU).

The posters will depict the students as researchers in their own education. With the help of the NIU faculty and staff, students will design, implement and assess their own research project focused on teaching and literacy practices in the classroom setting. Twenty African American and Latino students will present posters on their experiences with literacy learning and the best methods to teaching literacy to youth.

Emily Prieto, Ph.D.  
Director Latino Resource Center  
Northern Illinois University

## Trillion Dollar Gap



\$1 trillion. That's the gap at the end of fiscal year 2008 between the \$2.35 trillion states had set aside to pay for employees' retirement benefits and the \$3.35 trillion price tag of those promises.

Why does it matter? Because every dollar spent to reduce the unfunded retirement liability cannot be used for education, public safety and other needs. Ultimately, taxpayers could face higher taxes or cuts in essential public services.

A new **report** from the Pew Center on the States, *The Trillion Dollar Gap: Underfunded State Retirement Systems and the Road to Reform*, shows why states must take strong action now-or taxpayers will suffer later.



## The Need for Latino Doctors

In the midst of a national debate about the future of health care in the US, one fact remains clear: we need more Latino physicians in every region of the country and in every specialty. There are many communities in the Chicago metro area that have consistent shortages of doctors and other health professionals. Latinos comprise a large number of residents in those communities.

The University of Illinois at Chicago Hispanic Center of Excellence in Medicine (HCOE) is in a great position to make a positive difference. Many of our programs, including the newest one (Medicina Academy), aim to promote medicine and other health care professions among Latino high school and college students. We are partnering with schools in predominantly Hispanic communities to share what we know about succeeding in college and professional/graduate programs. We know that only through sustained, consistent effort will we change the current low number of applicants to our own medical school.

The HCOE also wants to be a resource for those that have already achieved their dream of being a physician. Last October we hosted the first Latino Alumni and Friends reunion at the Crowne Plaza hotel in Chicago. We want alumni to reconnect with each other and to learn what the HCOE and the college are

doing to keep their leadership role in the nation. We hope that graduates and friends of the college will make a commitment to help develop the next generation of Latino doctors through their mentoring and financial support.

It is critical to recognize the support of the Legislative Latino Caucus of the Illinois General Assembly. Members of the Caucus have embraced the Center's mission and our role as a local and statewide resource for two fundamental community needs: education and health care. While it may be said that the education and well being of Latinos is everyone's business, we have to take a leadership role in addressing our own community's needs. Thanks to our friends in the Latino Caucus, we can move forward on this important agenda. **Muchas gracias!**

Jorge A. Girotti, Ph.D.  
Director of the Hispanic Center of Excellence  
University of Illinois at Chicago



College of Lake County

## Association for Latino Faculty in Illinois (ALFI) Planning Meeting

A planning luncheon is scheduled for March 19, 2010, at the College of Lake County, 19351 Washington Street, Grayslake, IL. This working meeting will lay the foundations and future course of the organization. Faculty with vision, ideas, energy and enthusiasm are encouraged to participate.

The Association for Latino Faculty in

Illinois (ALFI) is a new initiative, targeted for adjunct and tenure-track Latino community college faculty. The state-wide initiative is underway at the College of Lake County, Grayslake, Illinois. Political Science Professor Maria Perez Laubhan and English Professor Mary Mugica Winter are co-founders of the ALFI. The mission of the ALFI is to provide a forum of support for Latino community college faculty. Additionally, opportunities for professional development will be explored. Recruitment of Latinos to the professoriate and strategies for retention of current faculty are other topics of interest. Finally, ALFI hopes to establish a collegial venue for social and cultural exchange among Latino educators.

For further information about the planning meeting, or to indicate your interest in joining this group, please contact Maria Perez Laubhan ([mlaubhan@clcillinois.edu](mailto:mlaubhan@clcillinois.edu)).

ALFI website:

<http://www.clcillinois.edu/ALFI/>



[Association of Latino Faculty in Illinois \(ALFI\)](#)

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## NEIU-EI Centro Turns 40



Northeastern Illinois University - El Centro turns 40 years old. This significant milestone will be celebrated with great joy and reflection in 2010. The celebration will highlight NEIU-EI Centro's contributions to the Latino community, acknowledge alumni

accomplishments, and recognize collaborative work with our community partners. The celebration will include community art exhibits, a Latino scholar lecture, a community theatre production, a poetry reading, an international study tour to Guanajuato, México, and a family day featuring a soccer game, family carnival and outdoor movie. The main event will be a **40th Anniversary Gala on Friday, June 4, 2010**. The celebration will conclude with Duende Flamenco Music Concert on Thursday, June 17, 2010 performed by Ensemble Español in residence at NEIU. Proceeds from the 40th anniversary celebration will benefit the NEIU-EI Centro foundation in support of student scholarship opportunities, student and community programming and facility improvements. We look forward to your participation and support.

For more information visit our Website

[www.neiu.edu/elcentro40thAnniversary](http://www.neiu.edu/elcentro40thAnniversary)

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## A Cultural Treasure in the Middle of the City

The Rafael Cintron-Ortiz Latino Cultural Center at the University of Illinois Chicago (UIC) was established in November 1976 as the first cultural center at the university through the efforts of students, faculty, staff and the community. Named after the late professor, Rafael Cintron-Ortiz, who identified with student concerns and became a mentor, leader and role model for Latino students at the university, the Center continues to provide a "home away from home" for students, fosters intellectual growth and



exchange as well as serve as a venue for cultural expression for UIC Latino students and community members.

The Latino Cultural Center strives to create a positive atmosphere conducive to the sharing of knowledge, information and opportunities through the development of educational, cultural and social programs that affirm Latin American identity and values. We aim to complement and influence UIC's mission of diversity through campus and community collaborations while encouraging others to explore and understand Latino issues. Furthermore, the Center serves as a linkage between the University community and the outside Latino community by providing the latter with university programs and services and by bringing community concerns to the attention of the campus community.

Some of our signature events include the Thursday Series, Chicago Latino Film Festival and Latino Heritage Month celebration. The Latino Cultural Center Thursday Series was created to promote the diversity of the Latino culture through the dissemination of knowledge and all forms of artistic expression. Music, dance, poetry, film, conversation, art and workshops are all important elements of the Thursday Series. Each Thursday represents a unique realm of the Latino culture, while encouraging the development of creativity and leadership among student organizations.

First Thursdays at 7 p.m. is Movie

Night \* Second Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. is  
Noche de Poetas \* Third Thursdays is La Peña  
(live music night)

Ivone De Jesus, Acting Director  
Rafael Cintron-Ortiz Latino Cultural Center  
University of Illinois at Chicago  
[www.uic.edu/depts/lcc](http://www.uic.edu/depts/lcc)

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## How Far will You Go to Reach Your Dream?

At the beginning of this year, four courageous students started a journey. They will walk from Florida to Washington D.C. to raise awareness of and support for a



comprehensive immigration reform. You can virtually follow their steps and support the cause at <http://trail2010.org/>.



[Trail of Dreams & Fast for Our Families](#)

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## Connect with ILACHE

We look forward to your feedback and suggestions for the newsletter. The May-June 2010 ILACHE News edition is scheduled to post the week of June 1. The deadline for articles or announcements is April 16, 2010. Articles between 250 and 300 words can be sent as text in an email note or as a Microsoft Word attachment to [ilache@ilache.com](mailto:ilache@ilache.com). Photos should be in jpeg format. Please put "newsletter" in the subject area of the email note. Announcements can also be posted on our facebook group.



[ILACHE Students](#)

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# Announcements

The African American and Latino Dialogue and Research Forum is on Friday, April 9, 2010. Registration and Call for Abstracts information is available at <http://grad.uic.edu/cms/?pid=1000471>.