

2024 CLLAS Annual Report



Photo Credit: Brayan Gutierrez

Greetings from Dr. Chinaea

With another year quickly winding down, we take a moment to reflect on the continuing journey of the Wayne State University Center for Latino/an and Latin American Studies (CLLAS). In this year-in-review, we highlight activities involving our students, staff, core faculty, part-time instructors, interns, alumni, and external partners, which include many of you. Briefly noted herein are important news and updates that document the programming and related activities that reflect the unique mission of CLLAS.

On a personal note, 2024 is also incredibly special to me because it marks my 20th year as director of CLLAS, during which time I have benefited greatly from the support of our dedicated personnel, the community and the university's administration. I have also enjoyed researching for publications, teaching classes, serving on various campus committees, participating in academic programs and activities, and attending the annual events sponsored by community organizations across the region.

In April, I joined a celebration held at Yale University in honor of the work and legacy of my dissertation adviser, Dr. Stuart B. Schwartz, a widely respected Latin Americanist whose scholarship on the early Iberian Atlantic's themes of slavery, plantations, ethnogenesis, hurricanes, insect infestation and the experiences of New Christians, among other areas, has helped shape the historiography of the region.

While at Yale, I also consulted the papers of the Renigades Housing Movement archived in its Beinecke Rare Books and

Manuscript Library. I subsequently visited New York University's Bobst Library, New York City's Municipal Archives, and the Diocesan Archives of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in upper Manhattan to research complementary materials on the Renigades, a youth gang that embraced community development by renovating abandoned residential buildings in East Harlem, NYC.

In early August I flew to the Caribbean to deliver a paper at the conference, Honoring Sacred Waters: African Freedom, Creativity and Power Fete, held at University of St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands. Three weeks later, I spoke at the "Shared History, Shared Agenda" panel, Afrolatinidad: African American and Afrolatine Communities in the United States of America, hosted by the Creative Justice Initiative and the Hispanic Federation during the Democratic National Convention held in Chicago, IL.

In closing, 2024 has been a productive year for CLLAS and its key constituents, as attested by the many accomplishments outlined in the body of this year-in-review.

On behalf of the friends, alumni, supporters and partners of the WSU Center for Latino/a and Latin American Studies. I wish to conclude these brief remarks by sending our best wishes for a joyous and safe holiday season and healthful and productive New Year. Feliz Navidad y un Próspero Año Nuevo a todas y todos!



Jorge L. Chinaea, Ph.D.
*Distinguished Service Professor
of History & Director, CLLAS*

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Thank You 2024 Donors

¡Gracias a todos por sus contribuciones! We strive to be wise stewards of every dollar we receive to maximize the impact on our students.

Donors of \$1,000 or more and respective designations:

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- **LA SED Inc.**
LEM-CBS-CLLAS Alumni Holiday Social
- **Dr. José Cuello**
LEM-CBS-CLLAS Alumni Holiday Social

Support our important work in 2025:

Make a gift to support our annual programming and student scholarships.

<https://las.wayne.edu/donate>

2024 Annual Report

Editor: Melissa Miranda-Morse

Contributors: Dr. Jorge L. Chinaea, Estenia Gomez Elisevich, Osvaldo Rivera, Alicia Díaz, Pamela Esparza

Design: Jannet Hurtado-Blanco, Michelle Tinoco-Malagón, Itzel Mazariegos

Give to the Jorge L. Chinaea Endowed Scholarship Fund

Help us honor Dr. Chinaea for more than two decades of service and unquestionable commitment to WSU and the Latino/a community by contributing to a scholarship endowment in his name. When fully funded, this scholarship will be awarded to a student who is earning a minor in Latino/a Studies at WSU and maintains at least a 2.5 GPA, with preference given to students with a demonstrated commitment to community service. We are at nearly \$17k of the \$25k needed to endow and award.

Donate here: las.wayne.edu/chinea-scholarship



212

As of Census Date:
Fall 2024

Students in
CLLAS programs

77%

Fall 2023 cohort

First to
second-year
retention rate

78%

First-generation
college students

Fall 2024 cohort

71%

Fall 2024 cohort

from Detroit
high schools

CLLAS continues to draw the majority of its participating students from Detroit high schools. Around 16 percent of WSU's 1,285 Latino/a undergraduate students are formally in one of CLLAS's programs; however, many more are serviced through courses in Latino/a and Latin American Studies (LAS) and the numerous events and activities hosted throughout the year. Four-year graduation rates (meaning the percentage of first-time full-time college students that matriculated at the

university during a particular fall term and graduated within four years) of CLLAS participants remained above Wayne State's average for all students regardless of race/ethnicity and the national average for Hispanic students at four-year public universities. See "CLLAS Strategic Priorities" on page four for more on how we are working across campus to support student success.

Scholarships

Congratulations to CLLAS 2024-25 named scholarship recipients

Martin P. Rometsch and Wilhelmine Wiese-Rometsch Endowed Scholarship



Mariela Montero-Botello
Major: Mechanical Engineering

DTE Foundation/MiHC Endowed Scholarship



Estefani Covarrubias
Major: Public Health
Minor: Forensic Investigation

Cindy Estrada Labor and Social Justice Endowed Scholarship



Josy Cortes Samano
Major: Social Work
Minor: Latino/a Studies

Instituto de Mexicanos en el Exterior (IME) Becas Consulado de México en Detroit



Mindi Ochoa
Major: Criminal Justice
Minor: Latino/a Studies



Jose Gonzalez Blancas
Major: Mechanical Engineering Technology
Minor: Latino/a Studies



Sergio Sandoval Valle
Major: Mechanical Engineering

CLLAS Strategic Priorities

Last spring, Dr. Jorge L. China publicly announced his intent to step down from the CLLAS directorship at the end of the 2025-26 academic year, after more than two decades in the role. In response, this summer and fall, members of the CLLAS faculty, staff, student body, alumni, as well as campus and external communities held a series of discussions to consider the past, present and future of CLLAS. The conversations led to the identification of three (3) strategic areas of focus for the next three (3) academic years:

- CLLAS Directorship Succession Plan
- Contribute to University-wide initiatives to support Latino/a students
- Sustainability and growth of CLLAS

We have selected these areas of focus based on what we believe is most critical to fulfilling our mission to serve students and educate on the Latino/a experience in the U.S. Finally, we want to maintain the momentum developed over the past several years, ensuring that CLLAS is in the best position to attract a talented scholar and leader as it continues its second half-century in existence.

Below is a summary of the priorities and key deliverables.

CLLAS Directorship Succession Plan

We anticipate launching a national search for a new director at the beginning of the Fall 2025 term, and, as has been custom, seeking substantive participation from alumni and other community stakeholders in the process.

As an academic center in an “R1” research institution, the expectation is that a successful candidate for the directorship should have at minimum:

- Ph.D.
- Tenure (or eligible for tenure)
- Strong record of publications and other scholarly activities in a discipline related to Latino/a studies
- Success in grant writing and other fundraising
- Experience working with Latino/a communities

We will share more information on the search in the new year. Join our mailing list to get important updates on the process. Email Pamela Esparza, graduate assistant, at gh1513@wayne.edu.

Contribute to University-wide initiatives to support Latino/a students

In an exclusive interview with *El Central Hispanic News*, WSU’s President Espy announced a new affiliation with *Excelencia* in Education, an organization committed to accelerating Latino/a student success in higher education. WSU plans to pursue the organization’s Seal of *Excelencia*, a “national certification for institutions that strive to go beyond enrollment to intentionally SERVE Latino students.”

WSU was also invited to become a member of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU), the only national association representing existing and emerging Hispanic-serving institutions, with a shared commitment to improving access and educational opportunities for Hispanic students.

CLLAS faculty and staff is committed to providing leadership and supporting the University’s efforts across campus, as the Center has done for more than five decades. Dr. China was named an institutional affiliate for the partnership with *Excelencia*, and CLLAS staff members Melissa Miranda-Morse and Estenia Gomez Elisevich have already begun participating in a working group led by Vice Provost for Student Success, Support and Engagement, Dr. Darryl Gardner.

Sustainability and growth of CLLAS

CLLAS must ensure its fiscal and operational viability in order to continue to fulfill its mission, and its faculty and staff will be meeting with members of WSU’s leadership early in the new year to discuss current and future goals, including applying for major philanthropic and research funds. This topic will also be a major focus when the Center reconvenes its advisory boards in 2025.

Goals published in last charter renewal:

- Enhancement of all student services areas
- Overhaul and update the membership of the university and community advisory boards
- Develop new interdisciplinary learning modules to supplement CLLAS curriculum
- Strengthen minor in Latino/a and Latin American Studies
- Create faculty affiliate status

Historic Reunion of LEM-CBS-CLLAS Alumni

Donned in festive attire, Center alumni came together in a historic multi-generational celebration on Thursday, December 12 at a packed La Noria Restaurant in Southwest Detroit.

For the first time ever, alumni spanning its 53-year history reunited to share experiences and express their support for the Center and its decades of service to the community. During the gathering, alumni heard from Center faculty and staff on current initiatives and ways to get involved.

Among the alumni attendees were members of the founding generation in 1971 that united with professors and community activists to establish Latino En Marcha (LEM). The first generation of alumni established many of the social service agencies that continue to serve the diverse population of Southwest Detroit and its surrounding communities today.

Now numbering more than 2,500, the Center's alumni have gone on to serve locally and nationally in the areas of education, social services, government, the arts, science and business, including entrepreneurship.

The next alumni gathering will take place on Wayne State's campus at the Center's annual Academia del Pueblo research conference, which is free and open to the public, on April 11, 2025. More information at las.wayne.edu/academia-del-pueblo

The celebration was sponsored by LA SED, Inc. and Dr. José Cuello. It was hosted by Friends of CBS, with the planning committee consisting of Belda Garza, Elena Herrada, Alicia Díaz, Mary Carmen Muñoz, Dr. José Cuello, Rocio Oxholm, Pamela Esparza, Andrew Taszreak and Melissa Miranda-Morse.

Calling all 2,500+ alumni:

If you participated in Latino en Marcha, Chicano-Boricua Studies, or Center for Latino/a and Latin American Studies, we want to hear from you!

Email Pamela Esparza at gh1513@wayne.edu with your name, contact information and year(s) that you participated, or you can call the Center's main office at 313-577-4378. We will add you to our list to get important updates from the program and opportunities to get involved to support current students.

We are seeking:

- Professional mentors and speakers for the CLLAS College to Career Program
- Interactive audience for our student presenters at La Academia del Pueblo research conference
- Nominees for advisory board
- Planning committee for 54th Anniversary Awards Dinner



Social Work Field Practicum Partnership

This fall, the Center for Latino/a and Latin American Studies welcomed three dedicated social work interns: Marcus Flores (University of Michigan), Pamela Esparza, and Josy Cortes-Samano (Wayne State University).

Our Social Work Internship Program takes a holistic, case management approach to meet the diverse needs of our students. The interns are committed to providing equitable and compassionate support, aligning with the core social work values of **Service**, **Social Justice**, and **Dignity and Worth of a Person**. By staying attuned to the social climate and ensuring resources are readily available, the team empowers students to overcome challenges, build community connections, and thrive academically and personally. Their work goes beyond offering resources—they inspire growth and resilience in our Center's community. Thank you to field supervisor, Patti Dixon and site supervisor, Estenia Gomez Elisevich, and to Ozzie Rivera for key guidance.



Pamela Esparza

“Hello, my name is Pamela, and I am from Southwest Detroit! I am currently pursuing a Master of Social Work - Interpersonal Practice at Wayne State University. I am passionate about counseling among Latinx youth, and redlining.

I chose this career because I found through research that there is a reduced access to counseling services among low-income, and/or BIPOC families and individuals. My goal is to graduate with a Master's degree and pursue my licensure to provide counseling services to Latinx populations.

I chose to do my practicum at the Center for Latino/a and Latin American Studies because the community and staff are intentional about promoting Latinx student success and wellbeing on campus. As a CLLAS intern, I also want to be a part of this effort by ensuring Latinx students are being supported while navigating degree completion.”



Joselyn “Josy” Cortes Samano

“Hello, my name is Joselyn, and I am currently pursuing a Bachelor's in Social Work at Wayne State University. I am passionate about gardening, exploring different cultures, and advocating for social justice.

My goals include working to implement policies that protect undocumented individuals and supporting first-generation students in navigating higher education. I aspire to build a career as a school social worker or community organizer.

I chose CLLAS because its mission aligns with my dedication to empowering marginalized communities and fostering educational access for Latino/a students.”



Marcus Flores

“I'm Marcus and I am from Ann Arbor, MI. I'm studying to get my Master of Social Work and Master of Public Health at University of Michigan - Ann Arbor. I am passionate about children's literacy, researching social policy & history, and medical research.

I chose this career to improve access to physical and mental health services for students and families. My goal is to graduate and begin working for a local organization focusing on affordable healthcare or providing mental health services.

I am excited to come to the center to help students navigate things they might be experiencing through a culturally inclusive environment. Representation and identity are absolutely necessary for a person's wellbeing, and I am proud to be a part of such a great group here on campus.”

Jannet Hurtado-Blanco

“Hello, my name is Jannet Hurtado-Blanco. I am pursuing Marketing at the Mike Ilitch School of Business. I was born and raised in Southwest Detroit, and I am passionate about social activism, educating young people, and helping other Latinos in Southwest Detroit. During the 2024 Presidential Election, I wanted to help college students at Wayne State University register and vote. I created a student organization named, "For Wayne State" with "For Michigan," a nonprofit organization that helps students register to vote around all Michigan campuses. We were able to register more than 100 students on campus.

Additionally, I will be studying abroad at the University of Salford (England, UK) as an exchange student for Winter 2025. Thank you to Dr. Lauren Scott, Director of MPREP Scholars, which supports multicultural undergraduate business students, for helping to fund my trip.”



Andrea Lagos

“My name is Andrea, and I am currently pursuing a degree in accounting at Wayne State University, with the goal of obtaining my CPA certification. I was born in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, and moved to the United States when I was 11 years old.

In addition to my academic pursuits, I have a passion for baking and operate a small home-based bakery. Since the beginning of this semester, I have been involved in the CLLAS College to Career (C2C) program, where I assist in identifying resources and events that can benefit students. I have also been a member of CLLAS since the start of my college journey, and I greatly appreciate the guidance and support it has provided.”



Cristopher Santiago-Garcia

“My name is Cristopher Santiago, but most people call me Cris. I am currently pursuing a degree in Finance at the Mike Ilitch School of Business. Raised in Detroit, I've always had a passion for growth, opportunity, and community. My ultimate goal is to graduate and establish a successful career as a commercial real estate broker, helping businesses and individuals thrive through strategic investments in real estate.

Alongside my professional aspirations, I am deeply committed to supporting my peers. Through my involvement with the Center for Latino/a and Latin American Studies (CLLAS), I aim to provide resources and opportunities to fellow students, ensuring they have the tools to succeed and thrive at Wayne State University. I chose to join CLLAS because it is more than just an organization; it's a tight-knit community that feels like friends and family. Being part of CLLAS has given me the chance to give back to my community while growing both personally and professionally, and I am excited to continue this journey.”



Academia Del Pueblo

CLLAS held its annual Latino/a Studies academic conference on Friday, April 19th with the theme “Gender and the Latinx Imaginary.” The event also featured a collaboration with the University of Michigan’s Translating Michigan Research Team, which presented on Muralism in Southwest Detroit and included Kresge Fellow artist Elton Monroy Duran, CLLAS alumni leaders and Luis Aguilar of the *Detroit News*. Thank you to Drs. Yopie Prins and Kristin Dickinson and Emmanuel Orozco-Catellanos of U-M for sharing their work with our community.

Keynote Speaker

Rosalva Osorio Cooksy, LMSW
Faculty, School of Social Work, University of Michigan

Student Research Panels

“Honoring Our Founders: Community Leadership and Social Progress” *Featuring students from LAS 3990 Directed Study/Service Learning*

“Social Work Practice and Latinx Communities” *Featuring WSU MSW and BSW students in Unidad de Guerrero/a(s) student organization*

“Latino Urbanism” *Featuring students from LAS/SOC 3710 Learning About Your Community Through Research*

Top Research Poster Awards

“Jesus Loves Everyone’...So Why Not Us”
Lee Zarate

“No Quiero Otro Femicidio Más en Mis Hijas”
Jannet Hurtado-Blanco

“Catalyst or Barrier?: What Encourages or Discourages Latinos Attaining Higher Education”
Natalie Cázares

2024 Nuevo Comienzo

On Monday, April 29th, CLLAS hosted its 15th Annual El Nuevo Comienzo Latina/o/x and Native Student Graduation Celebration in partnership with the Native/Aboriginal Development Network (NDN) Learning Community and other campus units. This year saw a record 55 graduates attend and a standing-room only crowd in the Student Center Ballroom.

Keynote Speaker

Chris Cardenas-Graham
B.S. & M.S., Industrial Engineering (WSU CLLAS alumna)
Global Capacity Planning Specialist at Ford

Student Speakers

Genesis Ethridge
Juris Doctor

Daniela Peredo
B.S., Early and Elementary Education
Minor: Latino/a Studies

Julie Rodriguez-Espinoza
B.S., Criminal Justice, Latino/a Studies Co-Major



Clockwise from top left: Daniela Peredo and son Manuel, esteemed graduates, Genesis Ethridge speaks to a packed house, Jesus Cruz-Navarro’s cap thanking his family.



January 22 - Principal Nicholas Brown of Academy of the Americas guest lectures in LAS 1420: Intro to Latino/a Studies on the impact of bilingual and bicultural education.



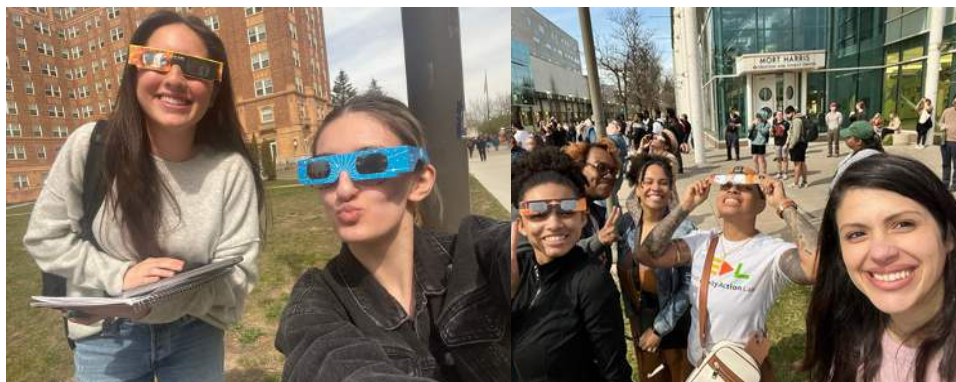
January 25 - CLLAS hosts JoAnn Chávez (back right), founder of the Michigan Hispanic Collaborative.



February 7 - CLLAS, Admissions and Financial Aid lunch with counselors from main feeder high schools in Southwest Detroit.



March 18 - CLLAS faculty and staff, community leaders and university representatives at the Investiture of WSU President Kimberly Andrews Espy, Ph.D. held at the Detroit Institute of Arts.



April 8 - Taking a break to enjoy the solar eclipse on campus with friends from the Office of Multicultural Student Engagement (OMSE).



May 2 - At LA SED's Annual Recognition Luncheon.



July 18 - Faculty, staff, alumni and students at the MANA de Metro Detroit Annual Brindis Luncheon.



June 24 to August 14 - CLLAS welcomed its newest cohort of students, some having graduated from high school just days prior, to its Summer Enrichment Program (SEP). Throughout the eight-week program, participating students earn up to six college credits and fulfill WSU general education requirements, while getting acclimated to campus, connecting with advisors and peer mentors, and receiving an introduction to the Center's Latino/a Studies curriculum. SEP has been generously sponsored by the DTE Energy Foundation since 2015. Photos: Students at the SEP orientation (June 24) and closing celebration (August 14).



September 19 - Left: WSU's Latinx Faculty and Staff Association (LFSA) members with President Espy, Provost Clabo and Vice Provost Padgett at the Welcome Back Celebration for Hispanic Heritage Month. Right: Ballet Folklórico de WSU led by Veronica Beltran, Esq. of the WSU Law School (center). Photo credit: Gabriel Guzman.



October 2 - Instructor Alicia Díaz leads a group of students from LAS 3610: Latino/a Urban Problems on a curated tour of the Detroit Institute of Arts.



October 3 - At the Talentos Latinos Awards Celebration hosted by Latinos en Michigan TV.



October 9 - WSU LFSA members enjoy a *cafecito* with members of the Middle Eastern and North African (MENA+) employee group at coffee shop Moka & Co.



October 17 - CLLAS College to Career professional mentor program launch, featuring alumni and other professionals paired with students. Advisor Estenia Gomez Elisevich worked hard to revamp the 15-year old program for 2024.



December 6 - Alumni, including five members of the founding class of 1971, at the public debut of the VOCES: Southwest Detroit Oral History Project held at the Mexicantown Community Development headquarters. The project is led by a team that includes alumni Ozzie Rivera and Aaron Barndollar.



December 13 - CLLAS and LFSA holiday celebration.



In Memoriam - Mario Grillo

CLLAS mourns the September loss of Mario Grillo, son of the legendary bandleader and singer Frank “Machito” Grillo, but an accomplished percussionist and entertainer in his own right.

We were fortunate to host Mario on the Wayne State campus on February 21st for a Black History Month celebration entitled “Machito and Afro-Latino Jazz and Dance Music.” A master storyteller, Mario enthralled the full house at the Bernath Auditorium with vivid and often funny tales of the various personalities, including Dizzy Gillespie, Miles Davis and Tito Puente, surrounding his father’s and his own careers.

Mario’s father Machito and uncle Mario Bauza (for whom he was named) formed the Afro Cubans in 1940 which led to ground breaking and continued innovations in the music we now call Latin Jazz and Salsa.

Photos: Top - Mario Grillo (seated, right) with Ozzie Rivera (seated, left), members of the Detroit Bomba group RicanStruction, Dr. Chinae and Dr. Ollie Johnson of African American Studies. Bottom - Mario Grillo with CLLAS student and fan Alondra Cruz-Alméstica.

CLLAS Unveils New Logo and Branding

The Center for Latino/a and Latin American Studies is pleased to feature the work of a talented Detroit-based student designer for its new logo (below) and visual branding, which will appear on the CLLAS website and marketing materials starting in 2025.



Statement from the designer:

“ Tasked with the creation of the new logo for the Center, I have taken inspiration from both Aztec and Taino symbols to pay homage to the original identity being Center for Chicano-Boricua Studies. The logo then had been a hand drawn sunflower, and I wanted to honor that by keeping these slightly imperfect lines throughout the new logo. With design, it is easy to get lost in this Western perspective that good design is reserved for clean aesthetics; but to me, character comes from the visibility of craft and the care put into it. It is my hope that this reflects the Center’s focus on maintaining their identity, culture, while persevering against all odds without losing their beliefs. ”

Michelle Tinoco-Malagón
Graphic Design Major
Illustration Minor
Western International High School Class of '22



L to R: Sign for CBS office in WSU's Justice Building, 6001 Cass Ave, early 1980s; CBS sunflower logo designed by Marie Cuello, early 1990s; CLLAS logo, 2012-2024.



Learning Community of the Year

In March, CLLAS earned the 2023-24 Learning Community of the Year Award from the WSU Learning Communities Office. The award criteria includes how many students are served, events and activities hosted, and feedback from student participants. This is the third time since 2018 that CLLAS has received this award, which is dedicated to our peer mentors and other student employees. Photo: Amy Cooper (left) of the Learning Communities Office with Estenia Gomez Elisevich and Melissa Miranda-Morse of CLLAS



MANA de Metro Detroit Amigo Award

Dr. José Cuello was honored with the 2024 Amigo Award from MANA de Metro Detroit at its annual Brindis Luncheon in July. The award is given to an individual who demonstrates through their actions their commitment to the advancement of Latinas in our community and upholds MANA's mission to empower Latinas through leadership development, community service, education and advocacy. Dr. Cuello dedicated the award to his late mother and wife Marie. Photo: Dr. Cuello with CLLAS colleagues, alumni and students. (credit: Jose Juarez Photo).



Clement Kern Award for Social Impact

Founding alumnus and long-time instructor Osvaldo "Ozzie" Rivera received the Clement Kern Award for Social Impact from MiSide (formerly Southwest Solutions) in September. The award is named after Monsignor Clement Kern, who devoted his life to serving Detroit and its people, especially the poor and disenfranchised, and honors local and national leaders who embody Monsignor Kern's dedication. Photo: Rivera with MiSide CEO Sean deFour at the MiSide Celebration of Impact Gala (courtesy of MiSide).



Detroit Tigers Game Changer Award

Dr. Jorge L. Chinaea was recognized in September as a 2024 Hispanic Heritage Month Game Changer by the Detroit Tigers (Ilitch Sports + Entertainment) and Comerica Bank for making a positive impact in the Detroit community and on the lives of others through his work at Wayne State. He was presented the award at a reception in Comerica Park. Photo: Dr. Chinaea with representatives from the Tigers and Comerica (credit: Brayan Gutierrez).



Talentos Latinos Inspiración Award

The Center for Latino/a and Latin American Studies was honored with the Inspiración Award at the 2024 Talentos Latinos Awards Celebration in October for its 50-plus years of providing access to life-changing opportunities through a college education. Photo: Dr. Chinaea, with Liliana Ospina of Latinos en Michigan TV and Daniela Diaz, 2024 Miss Mexico Metro-Detroit, accepted the award on behalf of CLLAS (courtesy of Latinos en Michigan TV).



Melissa Miranda-Morse

Associate Director

- Elected Chair of WSU Latinx Faculty and Staff Association, June 2024
- Member, WSU Employee Engagement Group Advisory Council
- Advisor, Latinx Student Association, 2018 - present
- Panelist, "Latino/a Community Issues" at New Detroit's Multicultural Leadership Program
- Chair, Academia del Pueblo & Nuevo Comienzo planning committees



Estenia Gomez Elisevich

Academic Advisor

- Promoted to Academic Advisor II
- Elected Secretary of WSU Latinx Faculty and Staff Association, June 2024
- Panel presentation: "Maximizing Diversity to Serve the Village" at the 2024 Academic Advising Summit at Wayne State University
- Certified as a Mental Health First Aid Responder
- Participated as a mentee in the Wayne Women Lead - Next Level Career Conversation, a mentorship program for women faculty and staff across campus



Ida Martinez

Research Support Librarian

- Conference Presentation: "How a Latinx Community in Detroit Launched a Large-scale History Resource Project," at the Michigan Academic Library Association
- Awarded Employment Security Status (ESS) effective August 1, 2024
- Taught FYS 1010: First Year Seminar for CLLAS freshmen students, Fall 2024
- Served as Secretary of WSU Latinx Faculty and Staff Association, 2022-2024



Welcome Juan Carlos Gutierrez

Administrative Assistant

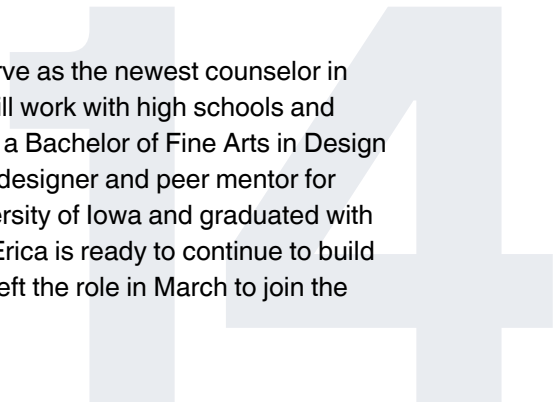
In March, Juan Carlos Gutierrez joined CLLAS, the Crockett-Lumumba Scholars Program, and Center for Gender and Sexuality as a shared administrative assistant. Juan Carlos is a native of Southwest Detroit and an alumnus of Western International High School. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Justice and Community Development from the University of Michigan - Ann Arbor and worked as a Small Business Development Specialist at the Southwest Detroit Business Association, where he helped manage small business grants and led a number of community-related initiatives.



Welcome Erica Perez

University Counselor, Office of Undergraduate Admissions

Erica Perez returned to her alma mater in November to serve as the newest counselor in WSU's Office of Undergraduate Admissions, where she will work with high schools and communities with large Latino/a populations. Erica earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Design and minor in Latino/a Studies from WSU and worked as a designer and peer mentor for CLLAS as an undergraduate. She later attended the University of Iowa and graduated with a Master of Arts in Higher Education and Student Affairs. Erica is ready to continue to build on the foundation established by Vanessa Reynolds who left the role in March to join the Michigan Hispanic Collaborative.





Dr. Jorge L. China

Distinguished Service Professor of History & Director, CLLAS

During summer 2024, researched the Renigades Housing Movement at Yale University's Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library; New York University's Bobst Library; New York City's Municipal Archives; and the Diocesan Archives of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, NYC.

Book Chapters:

- "Puerto Rico," co-authored with Jesús Raúl Navarro García and José Manuel Espinoza Fernández). In: Ivana Frasquet and Pedro Rújula, coords., *Trienio Liberal en la Monarquía Hispánica (1820-1823). Constitución y Territorio*. Granada, Spain: Editorial Comares, 2024.
- "A Tradition of Contraband: Secreting and Silencing the Illegal Importation and Exploitation of Enslaved Africans in Spanish Colonial Puerto Rico." In: Lissette Acosta Corniel, ed., *Transatlantic Bondage: Slavery and Freedom in Spain, Santo Domingo, and Puerto Rico*. New York: SUNY Press, 2024, 229-273.
- "'Soy Vasallo del Rey de España': Jaime O'Daly y Blake ante la Reacción Antiirlandesa durante el Ataque Británico de 1797 a Puerto Rico." In: István Szászdi, ed., *Estudios para la Historia Militar y Social del Caribe*. Valladolid, Spain: Centro de Estudios del Camino de Santiago, forthcoming.

Book Review:

- *Francisco Moscoso, La Revolución Haitiana y Puerto Rico, 1789-1804*. San Juan: Ediciones Laberinto, 2023, *Caribbean Studies*, forthcoming, December 2024.

Paper: "Diasporic Marronage: Colonial and Intercolonial Repercussions of Overland and Waterborne Freedom Flights," Honoring Sacred Waters: African Freedom, Creativity and Power Fete, University of St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, August 9, 2024. Also served as a panelist in the Sacred Wisdom Roundtable 4: "African and African Diaspora Wisdom into the Future," August 10, 2024.

Panelist: "Shared History, Shared Agenda," Afrolatinidad: African American and Afrolatine Communities in the United States of America, Hosted by the Creative Justice Initiative and the Hispanic Federation, Democratic National Convention, Democracy House, theWit Hotel, Chicago, IL, August 21, 2024.

Service:

- Member, Honorary Degree Review Committee, Fall 2024-Fall 2027
- Chair, Review Committee, Humanities Center, Fall 2024-pr



Dr. Nicole Trujillo-Pagán

Associate Professor of Sociology

New book *If Detroit Could Talk: How Black Space, White Borders and Latino Crossings Shape the American Dream* will appear in the September catalog of the New York University Press.

Professional Service and Positions:

- American Sociological Association, Cox-Johnson-Frazier Award Committee, 2024
- American Sociological Association, Community and Urban section, Publications Committee, 2023-
- The National Endowment for the Humanities, Reviewer, 2024
- Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program, Reviewer, 2024
- Detroiters for Tax Justice, Member, 2024

University and Departmental Service

- Director, Sociology Department Undergraduate Program, 2023-
- Union Representative to Sociology Department, 2021-
- Member, Type I Centers and Institutes Advisory Committee (CIAC-I), 2022-
- Member, Academic Senate, 2024-
- Member, Faculty Advisory Council, 2024-
- Member, Faculty Council, 2024-

Presided over a very well attended special session at the Annual Sociological Association meetings on the 2024 Presidential Election. Panelists included paradigm-shifting leaders in the discipline: Eduardo Bonilla-Silva, Victor Ray, Enid Logan, and Samuel Perry. The session was called "The 2024 Presidential Election and the Politics of Media". The panel will lead to a special issue in the *Ethnic and Racial Studies* journal.

Dr. China, Service (*continued*):

- Member, Stakeholder Advisory Committee, Participatory Action for Access to Clinical Trials (PAACT), Henry Ford Health System, November 2023-present
- Manuscript reviewer: *Comparative Studies in Society and History* (2023); *CENTRO: Journal of the Center for Puerto Rican Studies* (2024); Oxford University Press (2024)
- Community Advisory Board, WXYZ TV Channel 7, 2020-present
- Advisory Board, American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan, 2013-present
- Advisory Council: *Revista Brasileira do Caribe*, 2017-present
- Editorial Committee, *Agua y Territorio*, Universidad de Jaén, Jaén, Spain, 2013-present
- Reviewer, Postdoctoral Fellowship Program, American Council of Learned Societies, Fall 2022-Fall 2023



Dr. Reyna Esquivel-King

Assistant Professor of History

Book now under formal review with Cambridge University. Manuscript is entitled *Lights, Camera, Legitimacy: Film Censorship in the Making of Postrevolutionary Mexico*.

Presentation: "Cinematic Crossroads: Latin American Identity in Mexican Cinema," Midwest Association for Latin American Studies, Nov. 7.

Spoke on WXYZ Detroit and WDET on Hispanic Heritage Month.

Led tour and talk on Detroit Institute of Arts Día de Muertos exhibit for Latinx Faculty & Staff Association, Oct. 23

Creating a Mexican Cinema Festival that will include several universities in SE Michigan for March 2025.

New Course - LAS 3434 Labor in Latin America

Developed and taught by Dr. Esquivel-King, this course introduces students to the history of labor and the working class throughout Latin America from pre-Hispanic times to the present. Topics include indigenous labor; colonialism; slavery; nation-building; national identity; exploring labor activism and other labor movements; neoliberalism.



Alicia Díaz, J.D.

Instructor, Part-time Faculty

Consultant for Ford Motor Company Hispanic Latino Network on their design and installation of an exhibition honoring Latinx and Latin American Ford personnel

Featured in the digital publication, "Latino Reporter" sponsored by the National Association Hispanic Journalists Annual Conference and publishes work by its Fellows, journalism students who are competitively selected from national applicants from across the country.

Presentation: "Legacy of Latinx in Detroit" for the Detroit Lions as part of the organization's celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month.

Participated in the "Strong Inspirations" podcast hosted by Anthony Brogdon focusing on Afro-Latinidad and the practice of Día de Muertos in the US. Brogdon is a Detroit-based independent historian and attorney who has built an extensive online oral history archive with an emphasis on African American Detroiters.



Dr. Carlos R. Hernández

Assistant Professor of History

Faculty Fellows Fellowship program: Wayne State Humanities Center, focusing on finishing first book, *Paradise Lost: Beach Tourism, the Mexican State, and the Making of Cancún*.

Submitted two articles that are currently under review:

- "Troubling Tourism: Typologies of Travel in a Post-Pandemic World," in *The Latin American Research Review*, a flagship journal in the field of Latin American Studies.
- "Creating Cancún: Three Paradoxes of Development in a Mexican Resort Town," in *Humanity: An International Journal of Human Rights, Humanitarianism, and Development*.

Participated in six panels and presented two papers at the annual meeting of the Social Science History Association (SSHA) in Toronto about "Rethinking the Developmental State in Asia and the Americas."

Served as the inaugural speaker for the "Dynamic Mexico" Lecture Series at Washtenaw Community College.

Redesigned the M.A. and Ph.D. historiography seminar, HIS 7830: Methods and Research in History, to emphasize larger disciplinary questions of writing and professionalization.



Osvaldo "Ozzie" Rivera, M.S.W.

Instructor, Part-time Faculty

MSW instructor, University of Michigan - Ann Arbor

Member of VOCES Southwest Detroit Oral History Project

Developed and facilitated training on Latino/a Community for New Detroit's Multicultural Leadership Program

Penned a series of articles on Detroit history for *El Central Hispanic News*

Panelist, "Muralism in Detroit," University of Michigan Translating Michigan Project



“Let Our Story Begin”- VOCES Southwest Detroit Oral History Project

Alumni Ozzie Rivera and Aaron Barndollar are helping to promote Latino/a history in Detroit as part of the VOCES Southwest Detroit Oral History Project. With a pilot planning grant from the Kresge Foundation, the VOCES team, which in addition to Rivera and Barndollar includes Tanya Saldivar-Ali and Luis Ali, Martina Guzman, Mauricio Dominguez, and Irma Andrade-Guzman, hosted a public debut on December 6 at the Mexicantown Community Development Corporation.



The debut featured a short documentary spotlighting Detroit Latino/as who have made significant contributions in areas such as education, business and the arts across the globe, and featured rarely-seen archival footage. A panel focusing on the work of community historians, activists and artists underscored the impact that a single individual can make in telling their and their family's stories.

Rivera and the VOCES team are looking to expand their work to a full-length documentary and are asking others to promote the project and provide stories and photos that could be added to this collective effort. They note that the community has been in the Detroit area well over 100 years and much more needs to be done to truly tell that story.

CLLAS is working to bring the VOCES team for an event in Spring 2025.



Dr. Reyna Esquivel-King on National Hispanic Heritage Month

Dr. Reyna Esquivel-King was featured on WXYZ/Channel 7's Spotlight on the News discussing Hispanic and Latino/a identities, emphasizing the importance of understanding these identities to avoid stereotypes and appreciate the diversity within the Hispanic community. Dr. Esquivel-King, an expert on Mexican history, was also featured in an interview with WDET during Cinco de Mayo explaining the historical origins of the celebration.



Alicia Díaz on multiethnic Latinos increasing across generations

Alicia Díaz discusses the relationship between Latino/as and African Americans in Detroit, which began in the 1920s when Puerto Ricans and Mexicans moved to the city for automotive jobs. As Detroit became a hub for the Civil Rights and Black Liberation movements in the 1960s and 1970s, some Puerto Rican and Mexican residents joined these efforts.

Díaz and CLLAS alumna Sabrina Stahlberger reflect on their identities and family legacies in this feature on the portrait of U.S. Latino/as.



CLLAS students, alumni and staff at the Detroit Tigers Game. Friday, Sept 13, 2024

Felices Fiestas



**WAYNE STATE
UNIVERSITY**

Center for Latino/a and
Latin American Studies

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2025 Events - Save the Date

More details and specific dates will be announced on our website las.wayne.edu.

- March - Mexican Film Festival (collaboration between Dr. Reyna Esquivel-King of CLLAS, the Mexican Consulate in Detroit, and scholars from other local universities)
- April 11 - La Academia del Pueblo Conference
- April 29 - El Nuevo Comienzo Graduation Celebration
- June 24 - Summer Enrichment Program for incoming students (8 weeks)
- September - 54th Anniversary Awards Dinner & Celebración