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Enlaces Latinos: Newsletter of the New York Latino Research and Resources Network

New York Latino Research and Resources Network

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Enlaces Latinas

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW YORK LATINO RESEARCH AND RESOURCES NETWORK (NYLARNET)

PUBLISHED BY THE CENTER FOR LATINO, LATIN AMERICAN, AND CARIBBEAN STUDIES (CELAC), UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY, SUNY

NYLARNet

New York Latino Research and Resources Network



Education



Health



Immigration



Politics & Public Policy



Introducing NYLARNet

The *New York Latino Research and Resources Network* (NYLARNet) was founded to bring together the combined expertise of U.S. Latino Studies scholars and other professionals to work on specific research projects in four target areas: Health, Education, Immigration, and Politics and Public Policy. *Enlaces*, a word meaning links in Spanish, is the chosen title for our newsletter since it reflects NYLARNet's vision of connecting researchers, activists, and other members of the community with each other in their efforts to advance the knowledge base about the diverse experiences and realities of the many different nationalities placed by the U.S. Census and government agencies under the Latino/Hispanic rubric, and address some of major policy issues and challenges confronting this population.

NYLARNet was initiated by a partnership between the Center for Latino, Latin American, and Caribbean Studies (CELAC) at the University at Albany, SUNY, the Center for Puerto Rican Studies (Centro) at Hunter College, CUNY, and the Institute for Urban Minority Education (IUME) at Teachers College, Columbia University. The idea for the project developed out of discussions among researchers from the various partner institutions and New York State Assemblyman Peter Rivera (76th District), Chair of the New York State Assembly Puerto Rican/Hispanic Task Force. These efforts were facilitated by former University at Albany Provost Carlos Santiago and Director of Program Development Vince Delio. NYLARNet is coordinated by Dr. Edna Acosta-Belén, Distinguished Professor of Latin American, Caribbean, and U.S. Latino Studies, and Women's Studies. She notes that, "The NYLARNet project is just the beginning of an ambitious endeavor that will require the commitment, hard work, and combined talent of many dedicated scholars, professionals, and community leaders for it to achieve its full potential. We have a good share of those individuals at the University at Albany and in the Capital District area, and so

Continued on p.3 **Introducing NYLARNet**

Somos el Futuro Winter 2004 Conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico



Left to right: Assemblyman Peter Rivera; San Juan mayor, Jorge Santini; and Dr. Edna Acosta-Belén, NYLARNet coordinator



Left to right: Dr. Edna Acosta-Belén and New York State Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver.

See p. 3 for information on the forthcoming *Somos El Futuro* Legislative Conference on April 15-17, 2005 at the Empire State Plaza Convention Center.

SPONSORED PROJECTS

CELAC-Sponsored Projects

- **THE SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS OF LATINOS(AS) IN NEW YORK STATE**

This study provides information on the education, income, employment, and poverty status of the various Latino groups residing in New York State, comparing U.S. national data with information on New York State as a whole and on various cities within the state. The study is being coordinated by Dr. Christine Bose, a Professor of Sociology, Women's Studies, and Latin American, Caribbean, and U.S. Latino Studies (LACS) who also oversees all of NYLARNet's research efforts.

- **LATINO VOTING IN THE 2004 ELECTION: THE CASE OF NEW YORK**

This paper examines the participation of Latinos in the electoral process in New York State. It describes the demographic and political context in which Latinos participate and provides an analysis of Latino voting over time, of their role and presence during the 2004 campaign, and of registration, turnout, and electoral support patterns. The study is being conducted by Dr. José E. Cruz, Associate Professor of Political Science and LACS.

Centro-Sponsored Projects

- **EXPLORING THE EDUCATION PIPELINE FOR LATINOS IN NEW YORK STATE**

This study focuses on the academic attainment of Latino students in New York State, including high school enrollment and completion rates, and transition from high school to college. Dissegregated data will be used to compare Latinos with other racial/ethnic groups in the state.

- **THE STATE OF HOUSING FOR HISPANICS IN THE UNITED STATES, 1997-2004**

Documenting how housing issues, such as home ownership, renting, and overcrowding affect New York Latinos is the focus of this study conducted by Centro researcher Carlos Vargas Ramos.

- **PUERTO RICAN FACULTY IN CUNY 1970-2004: HIRING TRENDS AND PERSPECTIVES**

Examining the faculty hiring practices within the City University of New York (CUNY) system since 1970 is the focus of this study being conducted by Dr. Felipe Pimentel, Associate Professor of Puerto Rican Studies at Hunter College. Particular attention is being paid to the trends in hiring Puerto Rican faculty.

IUME-Sponsored Projects

The Institute for Minority and Urban Education (IMUE) at Teachers College, Columbia University is developing the *Latino Research Clearinghouse*. The Clearinghouse will make available information on the latest research publications dealing with Latinos and publish the NYLARNet Research Briefs that will be made available to scholars, policymakers, activists, other professionals, and students. The project is being supervised by Dr. Francisco Rivera-Batiz, a Professor of Economics and Education and former Director of IUME.

Somos El Futuro Legislative Conference, Spring 2005

NYLARNet will introduce the results of its first year's (2004-2005) sponsored projects at the **Somos el Futuro 18th Annual Conference of the New York/Hispanic Legislative Task Force** to be held on April 15-17, 2005 at the Empire State Plaza Convention Center. For registration and more information, please contact Melvyn Romero at (518) 455-5502, e-mail info@somoselfuturo.org or check the following website: www.somoselfuturo.org/conference.htm.

NYLARNet Coordinator, Dr. Edna Acosta-Belén, represented the organization at the *Somos el Futuro* Winter 2004 Conference held November 4-7 in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The Conference included a detailed analysis of the Latino vote in the last U.S. presidential election.

NYLARNet Contact Information:

CELAC, SS-248

University at Albany, SUNY

Albany, NY 12222

Tel. (518) 442-4590

Fax (518) 442-4790

Web: www.nylarnet.org

E-mail: nylarnet@albany.edu

Introducing NYLARNet continued from p.1

do our NYLARNet partner institutions, so I expect that new and important research will come out of our combined efforts."

The creation of NYLARNet was made possible by a grant from the New York State Legislature under the sponsorship of Assemblyman Rivera. NYLARNet is envisioned as the beginning of a future "think tank" on U.S. Latino issues that brings together scholars and policy makers from different higher education institutions and community organizations to generate new knowledge and sources of information about the largest and fastest growing minority group in U.S. society. Assemblyman Rivera has stated that, "The creation of NYLARNet is, to borrow a famous quote, a small step for those who have envisioned and created it, and a giant leap for New York's Latino communities. As a policy-maker, I am enthusiastic about the opportunities and changes that will come about for these communities

through its efforts. NYLARNet is a reality that has long been in the making. Its potential can be limitless and its promise is priceless."

A NYLARNet inaugural event was held by CELAC and the Department of Latin American, Caribbean, and U.S. Latino Studies (LACS) at the University at Albany,



CAS Dean,
Dr. Joan Wick-Pelletier

SUNY in Fall 2004. At this event Assemblyman Rivera was welcomed by Interim President, John Ryan; Joan Wick-Pelletier, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; Edna Acosta-Belén, NYLARNet's Coordinator and CELAC Director; and other members of the

University and local communities. Another NYLARNet inaugural event was held at the Fall 2004 Conference of the Puerto Rican Studies Association (PRSA) in New York City attended by over 350 scholars and students.

Beginning in the Spring of 2005, NYLARNet will make available on line briefs of its current research projects. NYLARNet research projects are chosen by the partner institutions in consultation with their Advisory Boards. For more information check NYLARNet's website at www.nylarnet.org.



Left to right:
Dr. Edna Acosta-Belén,
Assemblyman Peter Rivera,
and University at Albany Interim President John Ryan.

U.S. Latino Studies at the University at Albany, SUNY

For more than three decades the Department of Latin American, Caribbean, and U.S. Latino Studies (LACS) has been promoting interdisciplinary research and teaching in area and ethnic studies. Issues related to international migration, economic development, hemispheric integration, transnational sociocultural dynamics, and the impact of globalization processes are central to the curriculum. LACS is particularly proud of its pioneering role in offering specialties in Puerto Rican Studies and more recently, in the broader field of U.S. Latino Studies. LACS developed and offers an interdisciplinary doctoral concentration in Latin American, Caribbean, and U.S. Latino Cultural Studies that is part of the University's Ph.D. degree in Spanish. In addition to students from the United States, this particular program already has attracted students from Costa Rica, Puerto Rico, Brazil, Mexico, Trinidad, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and Colombia.

The Department's programs also emphasize the interdisciplinary study of the peoples and countries of the Latin American and Caribbean regions. For more information see www.albany.edu/lacs.



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NYLARNet
CELAC, SS-247
1400 Washington Avenue
Albany, NY 12222-0001

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