



¿Qué Pasa, OSU?

Volume V Number 4 : Winter Quarter 1998

a magazine about the Hispanic community at The Ohio State University

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UCHO's New Board

Opening Fiesta

Fiesta del ECO

A Search for Heroes



The Many Faces Of Hispanics At OSU

¿Qué Pasa, OSU?

Web Site

<http://www.osu.edu/students/ucho/QuePasa>

Racism 2000

Racism's ugly head showed up at OSU.

It always strikes me when I hear on the news or see a TV ad that there is racism in the United States. I want to believe there is less racism, and my experience at Ohio State confirms my conviction. That is why I was amazed and saddened when a "hate" e-mail came through my eudora log. I will not mention any names, but I will use the term used in that e-mail... "spic". This term has always been derogatory, and has been closely tied to people who are of Puerto Rican descent. However, the person who sent this e-mail used it in a context that refers to all Hispanics.

An investigation has been conducted by the university and all that has been resolved is that the person who sent the e-mail used the name of another person who has not worked in the university for some time. A typical show of cowardice by this individual. It took a big person to write such a thing and that person is hiding behind the mask of another person's e-mail address.

This is just another example of the ignorance that has always been closely related to racism. People swear that they are not racist in open forums, but the story is different behind closed doors.

It is hard to imagine that in the most powerful country in the world in which throughout its 222-year history has been built by immigrants, such acts of racism and fear keep happening almost on a daily basis.

We are approaching the 21st century and there has to be some understanding and respect of who we are and where we come from. It is time for all races to see each other on equal ground and work together, but we keep building barriers between ourselves making it almost impossible to see too far ahead.

How difficult is it to see a person of

a different race as equal? It is hard to believe that some hate group members will commit genocide out of fear of minorities taking over their neighborhoods and jobs. It is a reality that we see every day in the news, and makes us wonder about the racist acts that are not reported.

Education plays a big role, but even universities have not been left out of the race wars. A university should be a place where people should learn from books, but also from each other, and I'm telling you right now, that people are missing out in their cultural education lecture. A lecture that any of the 55,000 students that attend OSU can give. If they could only overcome the fear and ignorance that remain their only obstacles.

By Francisco Corral

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Please send all letters,
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Francisco Corral (executive editor), Josie Rubio (associate editor) and Maria Lopez (alumni editorial volunteer) take a quick break from their everyday duties at the Hispanic Fiesta.

Hispanic Student Services Fiesta

Beneath the chandeliers of the Faculty Club on the evening of November 17th, the Latin sounds of Yumbabé could be heard above the dinner chatter at the Holiday Fiesta, sponsored by the Hispanic and Ethnic Student services. A cascade of tortilla chips surrounded by salsa and dip stood in the middle of the room, and the aroma of "arroz con pollo" wafted throughout the large room.

The Fiesta is usually held on the first week of the autumn quarter, but the date of the party was moved closer to the holiday season to relieve a sense of isolation students might feel during that time of year, said Janice Hoffman, director of Ethnic Student Services.

"It's also a way to build a bridge within the constituencies of the Hispanic community," she said.

Hoffman said the students have asked that the Fiesta be moved to the holiday season.

Another change from fiestas of the past is the location at the Faculty Club instead of the Ohio Union. The Fiesta is also significant, because it is the first under the recently formed Ethnic Student Services, said Carmen Alvarez-Breckenridge, Hispanic Student Services coordinator.

"We have a new beginning with Hispanic Student Services," she said. "I don't want to look at the past. I'd rather look at the future."

Moving the Fiesta was also a good opportunity to showcase the Faculty Club, which is paid for by the students and should be used by the students, Alvarez-Breckenridge said.

"It (the Faculty Club) adds a level of elegance and had a different air and a different atmosphere," she said.

According to Hoffman, the Holiday Fiesta provides an opportunity to educate the university and Columbus community about the Hispanic culture.

Karl Ivy, a senior majoring in International Business and Spanish, who attended the Fiesta, sees the event as bringing people together and "to introduce people who are not Hispanic and Latin American to the culture."

Holly Rodriguez, a sophomore majoring in mechanical engineering, received a postcard about the Fiesta from Ethnic Student Services, and said it promotes more Hispanic awareness.

Freshman Calen Frolkis heard about the Fiesta in her Spanish class. "I think the Fiesta is for people who aren't involved in the Hispanic community, because it opens personal borders," she said.



Guests enjoy some of the great Hispanic food available at the Fiesta.

by Josefina Rubio



Carmen Alvarez-Breckenridge and Kathy Booth welcome the guests.

Fiesta del ECO

The chilly conditions outside the Hyatt Hotel could not freeze the warmth and festive atmosphere inside one of its ballrooms. On the night of January 24th, the "Encuentro Cultural de Ohio" (ECO), had its sixth annual fiesta. Over 200 members of the group showed up in a rather elegant gathering that featured great food and a night of dancing that lasted until the wee hours.

The ECO focuses on providing a cultural encounter for the Hispanic community in the state of Ohio. On occasions such as this one, members try to relive their roots and traditions in a amicable fashion. The Fiesta has always taken place in the month of January so it can be a follow-up to the Christmas season.

ECO's president, Jaime Pardo, delivered a wonderful speech to the audience in which he made clear that we all should be proud of our heritage and culture. With some simple words, Pardo was able to make his point quite clear: "If I were to point out an example on why the Hispanic culture is the most beautiful in the world, just take a look at the Hispanic women. In them, God found the perfect mix and balance in feminine beauty."

Pardo also went on to encourage the participants not to let the Hispanic culture disappear from the mouths and hearts of our children.

The ECO is truly a keeper of the Hispanic heritage in Ohio. I invite students, faculty and staff to get in touch with this incredible group of Hispanics. They meet every month and their members are usually using the Hispanic e-mail list to keep us all informed of their upcoming activities.



Jose Cuartas and ECO's president Jaime Pardo.

Editor's note: To know more about ECO you can contact Jose Cuartas at (JCuartas@aloha.chi.Ohio-State.edu) or Jaime Pardo at (Pardoso@aol.com) or you can write to EL ECO P.O. Box. 09369 Columbus, Ohio 43209)

by Francisco Corral



Some of the guests that danced the night away at the ECO's Fiesta.

Spotlight

Jim Mager



Assistant Vice-President for Enrollment Management

When Dr. Jim Mager decided to leave his small town of Shadyside, Ohio and attend Ohio State it was a decision that he felt at the time was for educational purposes. As he looked around campus, he saw students enraged towards Vietnam and the government, he saw little ethnic diversity at OSU, a situation that did not sit well with him. Mager decided that there could be something he could contribute once he earned his degrees. Little did he know that 32 years after he drove down High Street to start his college career, he would still be at the same address as Assistant Vice-President for Enrollment Management.

Dr. Mager never thought he would stay at OSU for such a long period of time. In 1972, after earning a Bachelor's and a Master's in industrial and systems engineering, he decided to stay at OSU and help develop the first student computerized database. The database is still in use today, but Mager suggests it be updated.

In the 1980s, Mager once again considered leaving OSU for a job in the private enterprise. But there were reasons that halted that move.

On a night during dinner when he consulted his wife and three children on moving on, Mager went through a defining moment in his life. "I remember looking at my kids and telling them that maybe it was time to change venues, as I ended my speech it felt like somebody had died, all my kids were crying and I felt my heart crush. It was there when my wife and I made a commitment that we would not move until the kids were done with high school." So he stayed and helped OSU during a very trying process that was very fruitful.

Then in 1985, OSU was contemplating a major change in enrollment procedures. Until that year, OSU had been an open-admission university. This meant that OSU took all students that applied, which

in turn helped OSU gain the largest enrollment in the United States. Mager felt that a change was needed. "We had very little control in what the student body looked like at that time," Mager said. "By changing things around we would have a say on what the student body should be, and also it helped the university to diversify ethnically, while still being Ohio oriented."

According to Mager the demographic makeup of the OSU student has changed a lot from the 1960s: "There are a lot more women enrolled in many fields where there were not found in the past, like science. We are also more ethnically diverse with many Asian, African American and Hispanic students, and the best thing about this diversity is that the students today have a richer college experience than I had back in the 1960s."

After 32 years at OSU, Mager is still as excited about being a part of OSU as the first day he drove through High Street to campus. "I'm very grateful for what this university has given me. I know I have taken a lot more than what I have given," he said. "The richness that I feel I have gained from being at OSU has helped me gain a broader perspective on life than the common person that has developed a narrow perspective due to their particular job environment. I feel and appreciate the richness that OSU has given me."

The Mager legacy at OSU is far from over, his middle child just graduated from OSU with a business degree, his oldest son just started graduate school at OSU after earning a degree in business at the University of Dayton, and next year he would like to see his youngest daughter (An Ohio University graduate) attend Graduate School at OSU. "You should have seen her all decked out in scarlet and gray last week as we watched the Michigan game on TV, she is a Buckeye at heart..." Just like her dad.

by Francisco Corral

Campus News

Eva Cantú spearheads UCHO into a new era

The mission of the University-wide Council of Hispanic Organizations (UCHO) is to facilitate a forum for the exchange of ideas among registered Hispanic student organizations. UCHO serves as a collective and unified voice in matters concerning the interests and needs of Hispanic students at the Ohio State University.

During this academic year UCHO plans to advocate for the recruitment, retention, leadership development, academic enrichment, educational, social and cultural programming for Hispanic students, faculty and staff of Hispanic students at The Ohio State University.

UCHO strongly believes in fostering communication among the various social, professional and educational Hispanic organizations.

UCHO is registered as a student organization and its primary membership consists of student organization representatives.

However, faculty, staff and alumni are highly encouraged to attend and advocate their shared interests as well. UCHO's role is to serve as a communication link between all registered Hispanic student organizations

on campus in order to avoid conflicting activities, to coordinate and/ or co-sponsor activities and to create an awareness of each Hispanic student organization's goals. Here are the organizations that are members of UCHO.

Alpha Psi Lambda
Tracy Salas-Lynch
(Lynch90@hotmail.com)
The nation's first co-ed Hispanic interest social fraternity.

Brazilian and Friends Association (BFA)
Carolina Nahuz (nahuz.1@osu.edu)

The Brazilian and Friends Association promotes the social interaction between Brazilian and non-Brazilian people in the university community.

Folklore Hispano
Sonya Brough
(sonbrou@freenet.columbus.oh.us)
Volunteer Hispanic folklore dance and music group that occasionally performs public performances. All are welcome to join.

Hispanic Business Student Association (HBSA)

Eva Cantu (cantu.7@osu.edu) A local chapter of the National Hispanic Business Association at Austin, Texas. The mission of HBSA is to address educational and business issues related to Hispanics.

HGPNSO (Hispanic Graduate Professional and Non-Traditional Student Organization)
Monica de Castro (de-castro-morel.1@osu.edu)
Promoting social events and issues relating to members of common interests.

HLSA (Hispanic Law Students Association)
Salvador A. Cicero (cicero.3@osu.edu)
An organization designed for pre-law and law school students.

Latino/a Student Union (La.S.U)
Tony Valle (valle.5@osu.edu)
A Hispanic advocates and student interest organization.

OSHEA (Organization of Hispanic Students in Engineering & Architecture)
Rosie Gaido (gaido.1@osu.edu)



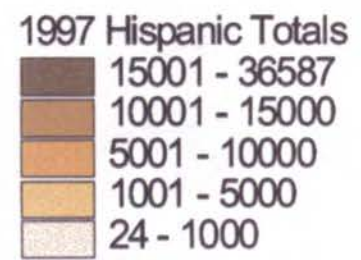
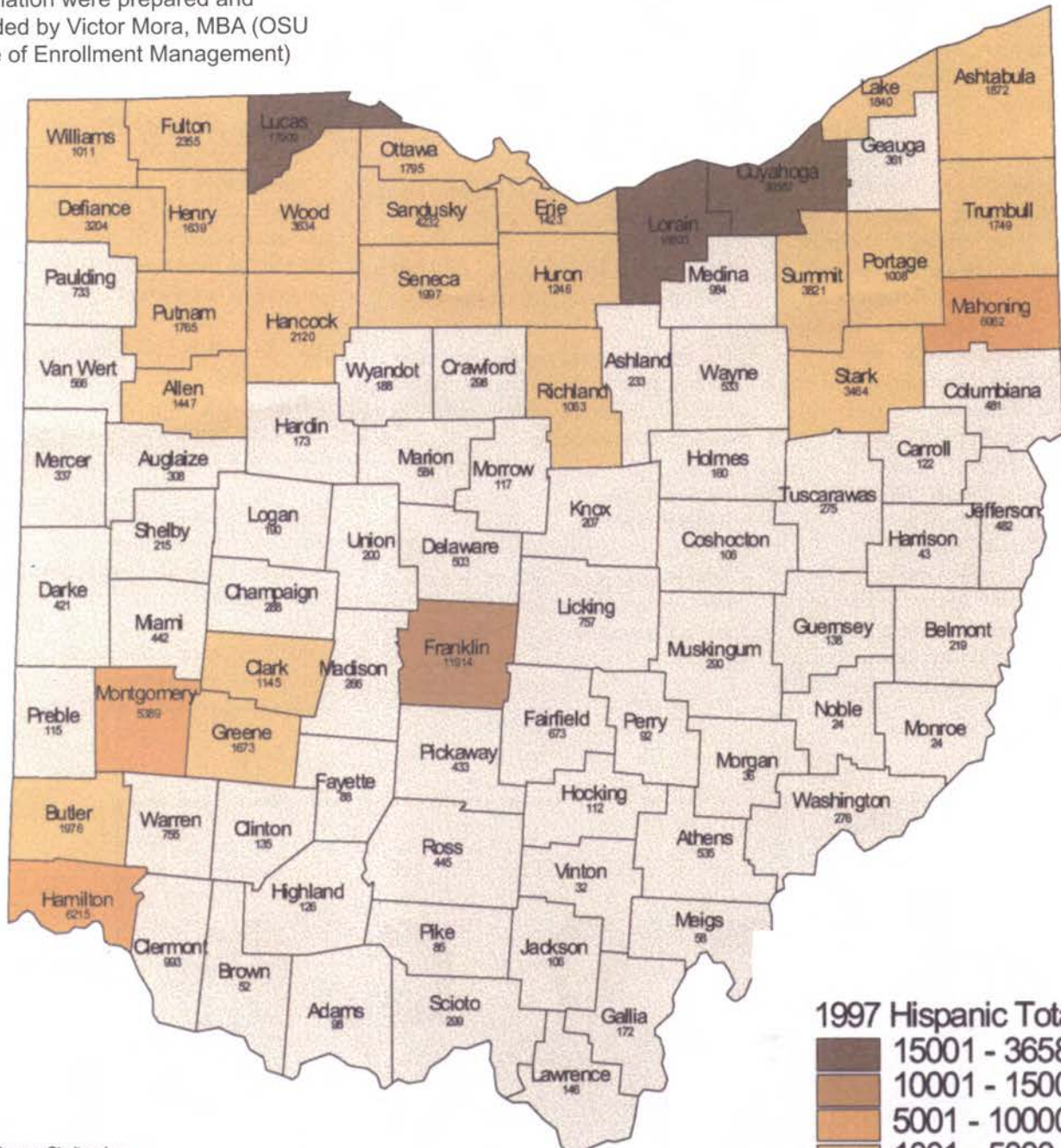
Some of the new members of the United Council of Hispanic Organizations: (L-R) Tony Valle, Carolina Nahuz, Eva Cantú, Dr. Raul Herrera, Monica De Castro

State News

Where are the Hispanics in Ohio?

This study shows areas in Ohio where Hispanics are in large numbers, the highlights and information were prepared and provided by Victor Mora, MBA (OSU Office of Enrollment Management)

1997 Ohio Hispanics by County



Source: Claritas, Inc.
Ohio State Office of Enrollment Management
January, 1998

Top ten counties of Hispanic population in Ohio and their Predominant Ancestry

County	1997 Est. Hisp. Pop	Predominant ancestry	% of Hispanic pop.
Cuyahoga	36,587	Puerto Rican	66%
Lorain	18,803	Puerto Rican	71%
Lucas	17,909	Mexican	83%
Franklin	11,914	Other	43%
Mahoning	6,962	Puerto Rican	67%
Hamilton	6,215	Other	48%
Montgomery	5,389	Mexican	37%
Sandusky	4,232	Mexican	86%
Summit	3,821	Other	44%
Wood	3,634	Mexican	82%

Source: Claritas, Inc.

Demographic Highlights: A) Hispanics makeup 1.5% of the total population of Ohio (168,388/11,202,691).

B) Slightly over half (50.62%) of the Hispanic population in Ohio, live in four counties: Cuyahoga, Lorain, Lucas and Franklin.

C) Approximately one in five Hispanics live in Cuyahoga County.

D) Franklin County ranks second in highest population of Hispanics with other national ancestry.

E) Of the 168,388 Hispanic Ohions: 41.3% are of Mexican ancestry, 32.6% are of Puerto Rican ancestry, 2.7% are of Cuban ancestry and 23.4% are of other national ancestry.

Scholarships from the Hispanic College Fund

OSU Hispanic students are eligible for scholarships provided by the Hispanic College Fund. Students must be accepted or enrolled as full-time undergraduate students at an accredited institution, and must be actively pursuing a career in business.

The criteria goes as follows: Must have a GPA of 3.0 or more. Must provide evidence of financial need, along with a certification from the financial aid office. Must be a U.S. citizen of Hispanic origin residing in the fifty states and its territories.

Close consideration will be given to students who can demonstrate leadership qualities as defined by a record of involvement and participation in extra

curricular activities on their college campuses and/or civic activities in their communities.

The deadline for application of this Scholarship is April 15, 1998. You can pick up an application at the OMA offices on the 10th floor of Lincoln Tower. Or call (202) 296-5400 for more information.

Summer Jobs at the Orientation Office

If you are looking for a great summer employment opportunity, you should consider becoming a part of the orientation staff. You can make a difference in the Ohio State community while earning a great salary and making new friends.

University College is hiring enthusiastic undergraduates to fill eight Office Assistant and 19 Student Assistant positions. Orientation Office Assistants facilitate all orientation communications and student pre-arrival activities, in addition to having a multitude of general office responsibilities. Orientation Student Assistants participate in leadership internships during which they assist students and their guests as they progress through their orientation programs. This

includes addressing individual questions and concerns, conducting campus tours, providing general academic information, and assisting in the course selection process for the Autumn Quarter. Both positions require a full-time summer work commitment, however, Office Assistants also must be available to work 8-10 hours per week during Spring Quarter.

For more information about these positions please contact the Orientation Office by calling 292-4161 or by e-mail: askots@mgate.uvc.ohio-state.edu. You can also stop by our office at 103 Enarson Hall.

by Heather Carney

Paid internships in advertising

There is a need for Hispanic students who want to succeed in the advertising world upon graduation. The American Association of Advertising Agencies, (AAAA) Multicultural Advertising Intern program (MAIP), offers college students 10-week, paid, summer internships at major advertising agencies in cities across the United States.

From June 8th to August 14th, 1998, students receive a weekly salary, a 60 percent off the cost of housing and 60 percent off one round-trip between the student's home or school and the internship city paid.

The deadline to apply is January 30, 1998. For more information please contact Rhonda Jackman at 1-800-676-9333 or (212) 682-8391 (fax).

OMA offers many programs which can increase the level of success of Hispanic students at OSU

Did you know that you can walk into the Office of Minority Affairs, Frank W. Hale, Jr. Black Cultural Center from 6-10 p.m. and be tutored in any class subject by a competent staff person? Did you know that you could possibly be a tutor? Did you know that as a freshman you can be mentored by an upperclassman who can make your first year at OSU more comfortable and successful? Did you know that you could be a peer mentor to a freshman student? And did you know that if you are a minority single parent student at OSU you could be eligible for free book scholarships, free childcare, and assistance with off-campus housing?

The programs mentioned in these questions are all found at the Office of Minority Affairs, Retention Services; The Mentoring Program, The Tutoring Program and The ACCESS program. Dr. Tamra Minor, Director of the Office of Retention Services, noted, "These three main programs help students achieve academic success by providing programs and services that address students' academic, personal and professional development." For Luz Allende-Moore, Assistant Director of Retention Services and administrator of the Hispanic Mentoring Program, it is important that minority students (specially Hispanics) are aware of these programs: "You can't wait until someone like yourself helps you out. Use and take advantage of the services and opportunities that are out there, I encourage students to go where they can get help." Edvia Santiago, a junior who also works

in the Office of Retention Services, agreed, "The Mentoring Program can be a good resource if you feel lost or overwhelmed."

Luz, who is of Puerto Rican descent, feels that Hispanic students at OSU are more focused on the social aspects of college, such as parties. She feels that at times they are not aware of the opportunities that OSU provides for their academic growth.

Luz also feels that Hispanic faculty and staff have to step up in this process: "There needs to be a greater Hispanic presence at OSU, not just Hispanic Awareness Week" she said. People have developed preconceived ideas about the Hispanic community at OSU and it is up to faculty and staff along with individual students to take strong leadership."

The Office of Retention Services and indeed the entire Office of Minority Affairs is more than willing to help Hispanic students grow and develop their

academic careers at OSU. For them, the students success is their main focus: "OMA's main goals for Hispanics are to get involved at OSU," Luz says, "and of course to graduate as many students as we can. We will work hard to achieve these goals, while trying to make students feel comfortable."

by Francisco J. Corral



Some of the Staff at the Office of Minority Affairs: (L-R) Dr. Tamra Minor, Kelly Kirksey, Michael Violey, Anthony Peebles, Nakeysha Hamilton, Luz Allende-Moore and Edvia Santiago

Spotlight

Barbara Rich



Interim Vice-Provost of the Office of Minority Affairs

Barbara Rich was chosen to be interim Vice-Provost of the Office of Minority Affairs last summer and will end her term in June. It has been a challenging time for Rich as OMA and many offices that serve ethnic groups on campus continue to go through a restructuring process. Her experience in this position has always focused on recruitment and retention of minority students to the campus. Rich formerly worked closely with the recruitment unit for many years. Two of the programs that strive to achieve these goals are the mentoring and tutoring programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

She has worked closely with the recruitment of Hispanics at OSU. Last year was one that saw Hispanics come to OSU in smaller numbers. "We are trying to increase the number of Hispanic students. Last year there was a slight decline in the numbers of Hispanic students, but we did not see a decline in the number of applications. In terms of enrollment we did not have as much success and we are trying for that not to become a factor again."

Rich explained one of the factors for this decline: "I attribute a lot of this decline to the fact that many of our Hispanics students are out-of-state, the extra tuition is a factor, and one that we will have to address, by intensifying recruitment in state. By that I mean we have to work closer with the Admissions Office."

She has spent much of her time as Vice-Provost evaluating, restructuring and enhancing programs for minority students. Rich says that funding has a lot to do with the disappearance of some very successful programs for minority students. She feels that there is work to be done to bring some of those programs back along with the funding.

Another one of Rich's goals includes making OSU a place where students feel comfortable. She feels that by long-range planning and doubling efforts in recruitment, the story of OSU could be told to students and ultimately driving them to choose OSU as their home away from home.

Rich is confident that the restructuring process is going in the right direction, but feels the programs and funding are key to improving the existing programs and creating new ones. One of Rich's favorite programs features alumni coming back to talk to the freshman and sharing their experience in the OMA programs they were involved in while at OSU. Rich feels that potential and new students are impressed by other students who have gone through, and are encouraged by their success.

One of the keys to the success of OMA is the diverse group of people who form the staff.

She feels her office is key in helping OSU expand its programs for students, thus fulfilling the needs of all who come to OSU despite race or culture.

By Francisco Corral

Leticia Thompson

Leticia Thompson is a valued member of the Columbus community. For over 20 years she worked at the OSU hospital in the intensive care unit. She retired in 1988, but admits that what she is doing today keeps her extremely busy.

Mrs. Thompson is involved in many programs related to health care, and she works hard to make these programs work. One of these programs tests the glucose levels of pregnant women of Hispanic descent. Another one is the hunger outreach movement that is gaining importance in the U.S., and yet another program deals with the pre and post natal childcare.

She says that as much as she enjoys working with all these programs, there are obstacles. One of them is finding Spanish-speaking volunteers.

Mrs. Thompson says that she would like to see OSU students be involved more with programs in women and child healthcare. This is one of the reasons why she is starting a new organization called Columbus Alliance for Hispanic Assistance (CAHA). This new organization, with no political affiliations, will serve as an umbrella for many of the programs in which Mrs. Thompson is involved.



Listening to her speak, you can see the compassion and kindness that this magnificent lady has for children and young women who seek direction. Her enthusiasm and charisma is certainly needed in the Columbus community and was recognized by "Chispa" (Lucent Technologies) organization, with an award as one of the distinguished people in Columbus.

Leticia Thompson is simply an example of a person who is always going to be there for Latinos and every one else who could use her help and support. One of the places you could find her the *Latin Rooster* restaurant where she helps her son with recipes and personal attention, which are staples of her charisma.

by Francisco Corral

Premiere

Attractions

YOUR WEBSITE FOR THE WEEKEND

<http://www.premiere-attractions.com>

Grads



Summer 1997 Graduates

Bachelor of Arts

Jose Lopez, B.A., Rel. Studies
Ruy Lopez, B.A., History
Vanessa Ortiz, B.A., Criminology
Rizaldo Salvador, B.A., Political Science
Nicole Villanueva, B.A., Sociology

Bachelor of Science

Mario Chalas, B.S., Business Administration
Claudio Garcia, B.S., Human Nutrition
Paula Garcia, B.S., Chemical Engineering
Glorimar Guzman-Ortiz, B.S., Pharmacy
Joel Jimenez, B.S., CS & E
Maria Newball, B.S., Special Education
Deborah Newman, B.S., Special Education
Luis Perez, B.S., Microbiology
Jon Stinehour, B.S., Education
Jason Swartz, B.S., Pharmacy
Edwin Velez, B.S., Agriculture

Masters of Arts & Sciences

Enrique Arroyo, M.A., HPER
Ivan Amy, M.A., Architecture
Angel Berrio, M.S., Agricultural Education
Clara Cuellar, M.A., HPER
David Fleck, M.S., Zoology
Alfonso Flores-Lagunes, M.A., Ecology
Andres Garabis, M.A., HPER
Janet Goldberg, M.A., Public Policy & Management
Dominic Gonzales, M.A., HPER
Stefan Krause, M.A., Economy
Angela Loftus, M.A., Educational Studies
Josue Lopez-Ramos, M.S., Agricultural Education
Jason Payne, M.A., Germanic Studies
Euralia Roel, M.A., Women Studies
Manuel Serrano-Sordo, M.A., Classical Studies
Miguel Velazquez, M.S., Mechanical Engineering
Patricia Wilt, M.S., Preventive Medicine

Masters in Fine Arts

Leelis Brito, M.F.A., Dance

Masters in Business

Michael Arguelles, M.B.A.

Medical Degrees

Rinely Aguiar, M.D.
Jason Juarez, D.D.S.
James Diaz, A.A.S.

Doctorates

Diana Aria-Garzon, Ph.D.
Manuel Bautista, Ph.D.
Carmen Estrada, Ph.D.
Ana Presta, Ph.D.
Ciro Rodriguez, Ph.D.
Juan Rodriguez, Ph.D.

Autumn 1997 Graduates

Bachelor of Arts

Anthony Castillo, B.A., Journalism
Monica Composto, B.A., History of Art
Fidel Cruz, B.A., English
Rabindrahath D'Costa, B.A., Economy
Bryan Grimm, B.A., International Studies
Roberto Lichtenfeld, B.A., International Studies
Mario Lopez, B.A., International Studies
Diana Macian, B.A., History
Mark Mercer, B.A., History
Jaime Pretell, B.A., International Studies
Rafael Rivera, B.A., Sociology
Patricia Rodriguez-Huston, B.A., Political Science
Sulem Rubio, B.A., Spanish
Rosario Santiago, B.A., Italian

Bachelor of Science

Dabir Bernard, B.S., Agriculture
Daniel Esquinas, B.S., Hospital Management
Tina Gonzalez, B.S., Physics
Marta Morales, B.S., Spanish Education
Stacy Paz, B.S., Business Administration
Luz Romero-Miller, B.S., Pharmacy

Jaime Soto, B.S., Business Administration
Steven Szasz, B.S.H.E., Family Residential Management
Polyanne Tapia, B.S., Architecture
Rose Valdez-Ritchie, B.S., Accounting

Masters of Arts & Science

Angel Arroyo-Rodriguez, M.S., MCD Biology
Margaret Cisneros, M.A., Psychology
Hans Dellien, M.S., AGE & RSOC
Veronica Lopez, M.A., Educational Studies
Rocio Garcia, M.A., ED-S &R
Joseph Vasquez, M.A., Political Science

Doctorates

Sergio Ammirata Aprile, Ph.D.
Donald Birchler, Ph.D.
Gustavo Moya-Raygoza, Ph.D.
Nestor Obispo, Ph.D.
Farah Ramirez, Ph.D.

A call for heroes

Ivan Adames shares his thoughts about the lack of Hispanic role models



President of OHFS

As a kid growing up in the inner city of Chicago, life seemed so easy. Happiness was to catch a Cubs game on WGN or maybe see the Bulls and the amazing Michael Jordan. Now that was a hero! Someone larger than life that inspired others...to "be like Mike." I had other heroes growing up; the Chicago Cubs' Ryne Sandberg, Martin Luther King, Jr., and my 8th grade reading teacher Mrs. Grimes. Those were men and women whom I looked up to for their qualities and their achievements. But I found myself asking why they didn't look like me. Where were my Latino heroes?

During my freshman year of college, I went through an identity phase where I came to term with who I was. After attending the Midwest Consortium for Latino Research (MCLR) in Detroit, Michigan, it all became clear for me. I was Puertorriqueño. I was someone with a rich and beautiful culture and a proud history. I had met congressmen, educators, business and civic leaders. Educated role models. I had found my heroes!

My challenge to the Latino Community here at Ohio State is to take arms and be this community's heroes. What does it mean to be a hero? It means to have the drive and integrity of character to make impact in the lives of people. It means to get involved. Are you such a person?

This past year I became part of the Professional Mentor Program sponsored by the Office of Minority Affairs-Retention Service. This program is essential and must be taken seriously by our community. I commend the effort of these programs but we must do more. The numbers of Hispanic high school dropouts are atrocious. Latinos have the lowest college participation among minority groups (ACE brief).

We must ensure the survival of our student organizations. We need advisors who care. We need more financial support for the creation of the Latina/o Studies Program. We need more Latino faculty members. We need to promote the staff position to areas. We need to support our recruiting efforts and guarantee the best people are in positions to do the job. We need to shake off the shackles of apathy. We need more scholarship dollars to ensure the financial barriers are lessened. We have much to do and many needs but the fight must go forward. We need the heroes to step up and defend our community. Latinos will soon become the largest minority group in this country and Ohio State University must play an integral part of its future. If not for us, but for children!

by Ivan Adames

¿Qué Pasa, OSU?

c/o Hispanic Student Services
The Ohio State University
347 Ohio Union
1739 North High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43210



Latino-Interest Organizations at The Ohio State University

Alpha Psi Lambda

<http://www.acs.ohio-state.edu/students/apl>
Box 50 Ohio Union
1739 North High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43210
• apsi@postbox.acs.ohio-state.edu
• Tracy Salas-Lynch, President
614. 299.9954

HBSA

Hispanic Business Student Association
<http://www.acs.ohio-state.edu/students/hbsa>
1775 College Road
Columbus, Ohio 43210
• hbsa@postbox.acs.ohio-state.edu
• Corina Loo, President
614.431-8542

HLSA

Hispanic Law Student Association
• Salvador A. Cicero
614.261.1424
cicero.3@osu.edu

HGPNSO

Hispanic Graduate, Professional, and
Non-Traditional Student Organization
• Ivette Diaz-Greene

La.S.U.

Latino/a Student Union
• Tony Valle, President
614.299.7468
valle.5@osu.edu

OHSEA

Organization of Hispanic Students in
Engineering & Architecture
• Jose Miguel-Abbott, President
abbott.45@osu.edu

UCHO

The University-wide Council of
Hispanic Organizations
• Eva Cantu, Co-Chair 294.6459
• Tony Valle, Co-Chair 294.2417
• Sonya Brough, Historian 443.8987

UCHO Member-Organization

- Alpha Psi Lambda
- HBSA
- HGPNSO
- La.S.U.
- OHSEA
- HLSA
- Brazilian and Friends Association
- Folklore Hispano

OHFS

Organization of Hispanic Faculty & Staff

- Ivan Adames, President
- Claudia Rennella, Vice-President
- Ricardo Lucio, Treasurer

The Hispanic Oversight Committee

- Dr. Jamie Cano, Chair
- Dr. Raul Herrera, Faculty
- Ivan Adames, Staff
- Claudia Rennella, Professional
- Eva Cantu, Undergraduate

Office of Minority Affairs

- Dr. Tamra Minor, Director
- Luz Allende-Moore, Asst. Director
- Don Ibezim, Program Manager