



Consortium for Latino Immigration Studies

Latino Studies *Noticias*

Consortium for Latino Immigration Studies
Walker Institute of International and Area Studies
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March 2005
Volume 1, Issue 1

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Do you know? Between the years 2000 and 2003 the total population growth of South Carolina was 3.3%.

For the same three years, the growth of the Latino population in South Carolina was:

A) 8% B) 10% C) 16%

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From the Director

Welcome to the first edition of this newsletter, produced by the Consortium for Latino Immigration Studies, a new research entity based at the University of South Carolina. With over forty affiliates from among faculty and graduate students at USC, Clemson University, other colleges and universities in South Carolina, as well as the University of Veracruz, Mexico, the Consortium promotes and coordinates interdisciplinary and transnational research on the experiences of Latino/as in South Carolina and the Southeast. In this and subsequent editions of the Consortium's newsletter we will share information about our activities, our affiliates, research findings, and news from the Latino community.

First, some background on the Consortium's origin: the Consortium grew out of the Latino Immigration Project, which, in response to requests from local and state policy makers, was initiated in fall 2003 to gather information on South Carolina's growing Latino population. (According to U.S. Census data, the state's Hispanic/Latino population grew by 258 percent between 1990 and 2002, while in the same period their numbers increased in the nation as a whole by 59 percent). The Latino Immigration Project was housed within the Latin American Studies Program at USC. In fall 2003 and spring 2004 Project leaders Dr. Michael Scardaville, former Director of the Latin American Studies Program, and Dr. Elaine Lacy, Professor of History at USC Aiken, with the support of the former College of Liberal Arts (now the College of Arts and Sciences), initiated collaborative efforts with entities in one of the major sending regions of Latinos to South Carolina: Veracruz, Mexico.

Out of this collaboration with researchers at the University of Veracruz and the Consejo de Desarrollo de Papaloapan, an agency within the Veracruz state government, came formal Memoranda of Agreement with USC, and a bi-national conference on migration between Veracruz and South Carolina, held in March 2004. Over fifty South Carolinians traveled to Veracruz to participate in the conference, including researchers and graduate students from USC, Clemson and other institutions of higher ed-

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Community meeting at Coyopolan Veracruz with USC students and faculty, March 2004

Hispanic Student Organization Joins Campus Community



SC Gamecocks Chapter of Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers.

To learn more about the SC Chapter of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers and their future activities, contact shpeusc@gwm.sc.edu

The National Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) was founded in 1974 by a group of engineers in Los Angeles. Their objective was to form a national organization of professional engineers to serve as role models in the Hispanic community. Today, SHPE enjoys a strong but independent network of professional and student chapters throughout the nation.

The SHPE South Carolina Gamecocks Chapter of the SHPE was founded in 2004, when some USC Hispanic students who wanted interaction with others of similar cultural backgrounds and experiences issued a call for membership. They were overwhelmed with the response. The new organization now includes 20 members from different Latin American nations, including Puerto Rico, Mexico, Argentina, the Dominican Republic, Colombia, and Venezuela. Membership is not restricted to Engineering majors, and several members come from other disciplines. Among SHPE's objectives is to serve the local Hispanic community, especially students. They also hope to increase the number of Hispanic engineering students at USC, promote the education, retention and employment of Hispanic engineers and scientists, and develop and participate in collaborative programs with the university and local industry.

Within 6 months, the local SHPE chapter was participating in community services activities, including a Christmas toy drive for Hispanic families. Members also planted a Carolina Fence Garden in Rosewood Park as part of the Martin Luther King Day of Service. Members are eager to see an increase in the size of USC's Hispanic community and to play a more active role in service for the university and the larger community. If you would like more information about the chapter and future activities, please contact shpeusc@gwm.sc.edu.

Bi-National Connections



The State of Veracruz, Mexico (shaded)

Last summer a group of scholars from USC and Clemson journeyed to the Gulf Coast state of Veracruz in Mexico. They found South Carolina license plates on cars and trucks in various communities scattered across the highlands, tangible evidence of the strong connections that have evolved between these two states. In the past five years, the state of Veracruz has become the primary point of origin of Mexicans living in South Carolina, and in July 2004 the Consortium for Latino Immigration Studies sponsored a research trip to Veracruz to better understand the factors behind this connection.

As part of their 10-day research expedition, USC's Dr. Elaine Lacy, Dr. Thomas Leatherman (Anthropology), Dr. Myriam Torres (SC Rural Health Research Center), Dr. Michael Scardaville (History), Lariza Miranda-Chalfant (Nursing), and Clemson's Brenda Vander Mey (Sociology) met with migration scholars and other colleagues at the University of Veracruz. They developed a preliminary bi-national migration research agenda, and they also visited diverse communities in the Córdoba-Orizaba and Tlacotalpan regions to interview residents who have either lived or have family members in "las Carolinas." The trip concluded with the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement between the University of Veracruz and the University of South Carolina to formalize the budding relationship between faculty and students at both institutions.



Children in Veracruz pose on a truck from South Carolina

The
Consortium for
Latino
Immigration
Studies
University of
South Carolina

Speaker Series Spring 2005



March 23, 2005 3:30pm, Russell House room 303
"Migrant Health: A South Carolina Perspective"

Dr. José Rivera, M.D, a physician in Orangeburg Co. South Carolina will speak on his work with migrant agricultural workers and health services.



April 7, 2005 3:30 pm, Russell House Theatre
"The Political Incorporation of Latinos in Contemporary America"

Rodolfo de la Garza Ph.D, Vice President of the Tomás Rivera Policy Institute, and Professor of Political Science at Columbia University. Among his many publications is *Sending Money Home: Hispanic Remittances and Community Development*.

Co-sponsored by the Department of Political Science, The CIBER Center, Latin American Studies Program and The Institute for Public Service and Policy Research



April 22, 2005 3:30pm, Russell House Room 303
"Global Lives, Local Struggles: Latino Immigrants in the New South"

Mary Odem Ph.D, Associate Professor of History at Emory University. Her current research project addresses the socio-cultural contexts, processes and transformations of Latin American migration to the U.S. South since 1965.

Co-sponsored by the History Department, Women's Studies & Latin American Studies Program

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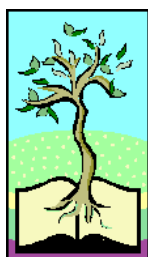
Our Mission

The Consortium for Latino Immigration Studies promotes and coordinates interdisciplinary and transnational research on the experiences of Latino/as in South Carolina and the Southeast. The Consortium also disseminates research findings and other information on Hispanic/Latino issues to academic and non-academic users through such venues as conferences, symposia, workshops and publications, and fosters application and translation of such findings into practice and policy.

Further, the Consortium encourages and supports teaching and service projects related to Latinos, and collaborates with local communities as well as organizations and government agencies that are involved with the state's growing Latino population. Through its various activities the Consortium fulfills the University's mission to improve the quality of life for all state residents.

If you would like information about upcoming Consortium events, please join the Consortium for Latino Immigration Studies Community Members' Listserv.

Find out how to join at www.cas.sc.edu/cli/



Libraries, Literacy and Latinos
Las Raíces y Ramas ~ Roots and Branches
The Second Literacy Summit on
Library Services to Latinos



USC and The University of Veracruz will partner for a Maymester session in 2005.

If you have an interest in establishing an affiliation with the Consortium please contact Rosemary Sharples at

sharples@gwm.sc.edu for an application.

Upcoming Events

On **Wednesday, March 23** at 3:30pm, **Dr. José Rivera, M.D.**, a physician in Orangeburg Co. SC will speak on "Migrant Health: A South Carolina Perspective" Russell House room 303

On **Thursday, April 7** at 3:30pm, **Rodolfo de la Garza, Ph.D.**, Vice President of the Tomás Rivera Policy Institute will speak on , "The Political Incorporation of Latinos in Contemporary America" in the Russell House Theatre. Co-sponsored by The CIBER Center, Latin American Studies Program, the Department of Political Science and The Institute for Public Service and Policy Research

On **Friday, April 22** at 3:30pm, **Mary Odem, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of History at Emory University, will speak on "Global Lives, Local Struggles: Latino Immigrants in the New South" Russell House room 303. Co-sponsored by the History Department, Women's Studies and Latin American Studies Program

Latino Literacy Summit: May 20th 2005

The School of Library and Information Science will host the follow-up to last year's Semillas Hispanic Literacy Summit. This time, the focus is on **Libraries, Literacy, and Latinos**. Librarians, library administrators, representatives from South Carolina, Georgia, and North Carolina. Hispanic communities and service agencies, and literacy education professionals are invited to attend. Representatives from the Carolina Chapter of Reforma, the national organization dedicated to improving access to libraries by Latinos, will also be present. This summit's emphasis will be sharing materials and resources to help library workers improve access to libraries by Latinos.

Please check <http://www.libsci.sc.edu/latinos/summit.html> for details in the coming weeks.

¡Aventura Mexicana!

Dr. Wendy Sellers Campbell, College of Social Work, will be leading a group of students and professionals to Veracruz, Mexico as part of Maymester 2005. Participants will have an opportunity to connect with students and faculty at la Universidad Veracruzana, volunteer with social service agencies, participate in Spanish classes, and learn about Mexican immigration between Veracruz and South Carolina. Participants will have the option of staying in Mexico for one or two weeks and will choose between staying with host families or in hotels. Course credit and CEUs will be available for this trip. *No prior Spanish experience is necessary.*

To learn more about this opportunity, please visit the website at: <http://cosw.sc.edu/intl/foreignstudy/mexico05/index.html>. Interested participants may also contact Dr. Campbell directly at wendy.campbell@sc.edu or via telephone at (803) 777-8879.

Interested in Conducting Quality Research on Latino Issues?

If you are a researcher with an interest in issues of migration and/or the Latino communities in South Carolina, we invite you to be included as "Affiliated Faculty" of the Consortium for Latino Immigration Studies at USC.

As an Affiliated Faculty Member you could engage in collaborative efforts related to our growing Latino population. You would also be eligible to receive Consortium support in your research and scholarly activities related to Latino projects.

Faculty Focus

With a joint faculty appointment in the USC Women's Studies Program and the College of Nursing, consortium affiliate **Dr. DeAnne K. Hilfinger Messias** probably never expected to spend her evenings coordinating the distribution of ESL materials to classes around Richland and Lexington counties. That is just one of the new areas of 'expertise' she has acquired as **Principal Investigator (PI) of a Hispanic Health Initiatives research grant from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services**. The two-year research project has involved the conceptualization, development, implementation, and testing of a community-based educational intervention, the Language for Healthcare Access (LHA) curriculum.



DeAnne K.
Hilfinger
Messias,
Consortium
Affiliate

The LHA curriculum is a series of eight English as a Second Language (ESL) classes which incorporate specific learning objectives, vocabulary development, sentence practice, picture stories, dialogs, and healthcare access skills. The curriculum was developed by the research team with the input and consultation of a community advisory board. **The aim of the LHA curriculum is to improve the capacity of limited English proficient Spanish speakers to access and navigate the formal U.S. healthcare system.**

Community-based ESL programs have been recruited into the study and randomized to intervention and control groups. The intervention sites receive the LHA curriculum, taught by trained ESL teachers. Students enrolled in both control and intervention classes participate in baseline and follow-up assessment surveys, in Spanish. The researchers expect to show that exposure to the LHA curriculum results in improved knowledge of the local healthcare system and available healthcare resources, improved language and communication skills, increased self-efficacy related to access and utilization of healthcare services, and higher levels of satisfaction related to healthcare encounters. A broader goal of the project is to disseminate the LHA curriculum for adaptation and use in other communities and contexts around the United States, once the research is complete.

From the Director (cont. from p. 1)

state. In June 2004 the Latino Immigration Project hosted a symposium on Latinos in South Carolina at USC, and, indicative of the growing interest in our Latino population, more than 150 people from around the state came to share information and learn more about our new neighbors.

The overwhelming interest generated by the Latino Immigration Project's activities led administrators in the College of Liberal Arts to establish the Consortium for Latino Immigration Studies as a separate entity in July 2004, with Dr. Elaine Lacy as Director. In the fall of 2004 a steering committee made up of 20 Consortium affiliates drew up a mission statement and strategic plan, and affiliates began developing research projects on issues related to the state and region's growing Latino residents.

Our mission is to promote and coordinate interdisciplinary, transnational research and scholarship on Latinos/as in the state and region, and to disseminate findings to both academic and non-academic users in a variety of ways. One of our goals is that these findings will shape wise practice and policy. We also aim to encourage and support teaching and service projects related to Latinos/as, and collaborate with all those involved with the state's growing Latino/a population. In the end, we intend to help fulfill the University's mission to improve the quality of life for all state residents.

To learn more about the Consortium and South Carolina's Latino population, visit our website at <http://www.cas.sc.edu/cli/>.

— Elaine Lacy

Do You Know *Continued from page 1*

C) the growth of the Latino population in SC between 2000-03 was almost 16%

In total, of the 136,928 new faces in SC during those 3 years (by birth and migration), 18,039 (13.2%) were Latinos.

Source: www.census.gov

According to U.S. Census data, the state's Hispanic/Latino population grew by 258 percent between 1990 and 2002.



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