



EL DIARIO COMUN

LATINA/LATINO STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

FALL 2012 | VOL 8

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Richard T. Rodriguez and Monica Gonzalez

Latina/Latino Studies: Community, Culture, and Critical Thinking

By Richard T. Rodriguez, Acting Chair, Latina/Latino Studies

Eight years ago I moved to Urbana-Champaign for what I thought was only a one-year position. I had been selected as a Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellow in Latina/Latino Studies at the University of Illinois and my goal was to take full advantage of my time off from a heavy teaching load at California State University at Los Angeles where I held a tenure-track position. Believing I had obtained the position I'd stay in the rest of my academic career (after all, I was back home in Southern California which is where most of my family currently resides), when I was offered a joint position in English and Latina/Latino Studies at Illinois my career plan took an unexpected turn. During my post-doc year I met many friends, colleagues, and students who deeply inspired me to accept the position and relocate to the Midwest. In many ways, it was the people I met through Latina/Latino Studies who showed me that the community I could establish here could indeed rival the one I had back in Los Angeles. I now write as the Acting Chair of Latina/Latino Studies and I'm thrilled to serve in this capacity given my passion for the department and the numerous individuals—including many people who I met during my first year at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign—who have contributed year after year to its success and growth.

In the spring of 2012 I was fortunate to teach LLS 385, the undergraduate theory and methods course, to an engaging and brilliant group of students. Throughout the semester I was reminded of Latina/Latino Studies' ability to push at the boundaries of set disciplinary categories. It was important for me to teach students to read across fields and disciplines and I reminded them that to do interdisciplinary work did not entail the disparagement of set disciplines but to think about how disciplines work with and alongside

one another. Thus I regard Latina/Latino Studies as a necessarily interdisciplinary space that refuses limited intellectual formations and remains open to an alternative and wide ranging spectrum of methods and concepts that simultaneously holds scholarly and applied value. Latina/Latino Studies maintains and builds on local and global emphases while thinking critically about space and place, as well as sustains strong critical, cultural, and historical perspectives. This is indeed reflected in the department's impressive curriculum, programming, and outreach efforts.

Latina/Latino Studies takes seriously the rich histories of Latino/a migration to the United States while assessing the demographic shifts currently taking place (particularly in Illinois and the Midwest) with respect to ethnicity, race, sexuality, and gender. The department unquestionably affirms and generates innovative research, teaching, and policy related projects that speak to these shifts. Part of my vision for Latina/Latino Studies includes community engagement, cross-departmental collaboration, undergraduate recruitment, retention, and preparation for advanced study in multiple fields and disciplines. I also see Latina/Latino Studies attuned to not only the intellectual advancement of the field but to the material needs and future objectives of those intimately connected to its sustenance and advancement, namely our students. They are, after all, a critical part of the community at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign from whom I've learned so much over the past eight years.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR TEACHERS RANKED AS EXCELLENT!

FALL 2011

PROF. ADRIAN BURGOS
LLS 280 Caribbean Latina/o Migration

PROF. LISA CACHO
LLS 465 Race, Sex, and Deviance

PROF. W. DAVID COYOCA
LLS 242 Intro to Latina/o Literature

PROF. JONATHAN X. INDA
LLS 387 Race, Gender, and the Body

PROF. MIREYA LOZA
LLS 296 Race & Ethnicity in Chicago

PROF. ISABEL MOLINA
LLS 375 Latina/o Media in the US

MIGUEL SAUCEDO
LLS 100 Intro Latina/Latino Studies

PROF. EDNA VIRUELL-FUENTES
LLS 220 Mexcian & Latin Am Migration

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POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

ISABELA SEONG-LEONG QUINTANA



was recently a UC President's Postdoctoral Fellow at UC Irvine, holds a Ph.D. in U.S. History from the University of Michigan with a focus on gender, race, labor, and comparative imperialisms in the long 19th century. Her book manuscript *Urban Borderlands: Neighborhood Boundaries and National Borders in Chinese and Mexican Los Angeles, 1870s-1930s*, examines how U.S. national borders are mapped onto Los Angeles' Chinatown and Sonoratown neighborhoods surrounding the Plaza. Her "urban borderlands" framework takes Los Angeles'

Plaza area as a site of multiple, overlapping borders where Chinese and Mexican diasporas shared daily living spaces and experiences of segregation, while also negotiating practices of exclusion aimed at restricting Chinese immigration and later repatriating Mexicans. Using space, gender, and work as vital categories of analysis, her study interrogates the late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century racial geography of Los Angeles. Her manuscript demonstrates that, although this period is often seen through the eyes of reformers and public officials, it is actually Angeleno residents Chinese and Mexican men, women and children who shaped cultural geography through the configuration of public places, homes, schools, and businesses. Dr. Quintana's general research and teaching interests include: gender, race, work, and U.S. empire in the construction and negotiation of places for everyday living, in particular the emergence of alternative spaces for the making of home and community.

SANDRA RUIZ



earned her PhD in Performance Studies from New York University in 2011 with concentrations in Latina/o Studies, Postcolonial Studies, Continental Philosophy, and Critical Policy Studies. Her work is at the intersection of these fields of study and the ways in which they are brought together distinctively through the categories of temporality, Puerto Ricanness, and Latinidad. Her dissertation, *Ricanness: The Performance of Time, Bodily Endurance, and Policy*, which received the Michael Kirby Memorial Award for Distinguished Doctoral

Dissertation, investigates three iconic 20th century Puerto Rican figures: Pedro Albizu Campos, a revolutionary leader, lawyer, and esteemed orator; Dolores "Lolita" Lebrón Sotomayor, a feminist revolutionary leader and poet; and Papo Colo, a New York-based multi-disciplinary artist. She reads the political gestures of the artist and revolutionary as performance sites and offers a theorization of Ricanness contingent upon the body's endurance practices against U.S. policies within the Puerto Rican diaspora. She argues that these three historical figures are connected via their relationship to the politics of failure; they perform "heroic" acts resultant in successful failures under a colonial predicament. Her work has been published in *Women in Performance: a journal of feminist theory*. And her chapter entitled "Running into Ricanness: Papo Colo's Temporal Shifts in Being," will be included in the forthcoming book *Performativity's Horizon: An Anthology for Performance Studies*. Sandra has taught both graduate and undergraduate courses at New York University, Pratt Institute, and Wesleyan University in theatre, American Studies, Humanities and Media Studies, and Latina/o Studies.

STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

MERCEDES GONZALEZ (undergraduate student)

participated in the University of California, Berkeley Summer Research Opportunity Program (SROP) during the summer 2012 term. Her SROP project involved ethnographic research of a Latina Immigrant Grassroots Organization in Oakland. Specifically, looked into the effectiveness of their women's empowerment campaigns and how these campaigns led them to advocate for pro-immigrant legislation on a nationwide level. During the 2012-13 academic year she will be a LAS 122 intern for the James Scholar Program and the student outreach coordinator for the Department of Latina/Latino Studies.

MARIANA G. MARTINEZ (graduate student and LLS teaching assistant) received a Hispanic Scholarship Fund scholarship, NACCS Immigrant Beca, American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education (AAHHE) travel award, and AERA Mentorship Award. She also presented papers at ASHE, NACCS, AERA, College of Education Graduate Student Conference, 8th International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, and Critical Race Studies in Education Association (CRSEA) 6th Annual Conference. Mariana just wrapped up her 2-year term with CRSEA where a major accomplishment was planning and executing the first ever CRSEA Graduate Student Pre-Conference. She also ended her term as president of GOLS, a new graduate student organization that was formed this past year. Mariana has also been awarded the 2012-2013 William C. Bagley Doctoral Scholarship and will be a California State University (CSU) Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Program fellow for 2012-2013. During Summer 2012 she taught a Chicano/a and Latino/a Literature class at Sonoma State University for the third year in a row.

KRISTINA I. MEDINA-VILARIÑO (graduate student) will be joining the St. Olaf College faculty as a tenure-track Assistant Professor of Spanish in the Romance Languages Department.

DAVID PEREZ (undergraduate student) spent summer 2012 in Brazil with the Harvard Business School Summer Venture in Management Program.

JOANNA PEREZ (graduate student) presented at several conferences during 2011-12, including the National Association of Chicana Chicano Studies Annual Meeting, the International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, the Responding to Immigrants: Bridging Research and Practice to Meet the Needs of Immigrants in New Growth Communities Conference, and the American Sociological Association Annual meeting. She was selected to be one of the Doctoral Students of Color Fellows for the Finger Lakes Environment Film Festival in Ithaca, New York and was elected to be the Student Representative for the American Sociological Association Latina/o Section.

BLANCA RINCON (graduate student) is a 2012 Tinker Fellow and National Science Foundation Graduate Fellow College of Education Graduate Student Conference Committee Member.

MIGUEL SAUCEDO (graduate student and LLS teaching assistant) will be awarded the Diversifying Higher Education Faculty in Illinois (DFI) Fellowship for the 2012-2013 academic year. Miguel was also listed as Teachers Ranked as Excellent for the FALL of 2011 for LLS 100 Intro Latina/Latino Studies.

PLEASE GIVE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LATINA/LATINO STUDIES ANNUAL FUND

Your contribution, no matter what amount, will make a difference to students and faculty. Contributions will be used for undergraduate scholarships and awards, undergraduate/graduate student travel awards, annual speaker series, and Departmental needs. All contributions to the Department of Latina/Latino Studies and the University of Illinois are tax-deductible.

The following Latina/Latino Studies majors presented their senior thesis during the 2011-2012 academic year:

TATIANA ALONSO

"Cookie Dough: Comparing Latino Chicago and Suburb College Students and the Development of Mexican-American Identity"
(Thesis advisor: Prof. Isabel Molina)

MARIZA O. BAEZA

"Diseased, Dirty, and Dangerous: Immigrant Discourse in Primetime Television"
(Thesis advisor: Prof. Isabel Molina)

VICTORIA F. BRIONES

"Unpacking the Continued Devaluation of the Women of Ciudad Juarez"
(Thesis advisor: Prof. Alejandro Lugo)

JONATHAN BRITO

"Youth Organizing and Community Empowerment: The Young Lords Organization"
(Thesis advisor: Prof. Julie Dowling)

VERALLY A. CALDERON

"Ethnic Identity Formations: A Multidisciplinary Exploration"
(Thesis advisor: Prof. Edna Viruell-Fuentes)

LAURA CORDOVA

"The Invisibility of Police Brutality"
(Thesis advisor: Prof. Lisa Cacho)

CRYSTAL DE LA HUERTA

"A Look at No Child Left Behind and the Public Education System"
(Thesis advisor: Prof. David Coyoca)

ERICK J. GIRON ALEMAN

"Dime Con Quien Andas y Te Dire Quien Eres: Masculinity, Gender and Sexualities in Latino Greek Fraternities"
(Thesis advisor: Prof. Richard T. Rodriguez)

ERIC R. GONZALES

"Gentrification: An Analysis of Grassroots Efforts on Chicago's Northwest Side"
(Thesis advisor: Prof. Mireya Loza)

OSCAR MEDINA

"Creating a Space Within Fraternities: Latinos at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign"
(Thesis advisor: Prof. Mireya Loza)

OSCAR E. PATRON

"From Hispanic to Latino (and Everything in Between): Complexities With Identity and the Power of Labels"
(Thesis advisor: Prof. Adrian Burgos)

JANETTE PEREZ

"Condemned"
(Thesis advisor: Prof. Richard T. Rodriguez)

JERAMIE J. PEREZ

"Are They Doing What I Think They're Doing?: A Textual Analysis of Reggaeton and its Affects on Latino Youth"
(Thesis advisor: Prof. Isabel Molina)

NANCY PEREZ CAMBRON

"Biologically and Scientifically Left Behind: Failing Latina Women"
(Thesis advisor: Dr. Mirelsie Velazquez)

GABRIELA T. RODRIGUEZ

"From Powerlessness to Empowerment: Conversations of Domestic Violence within the Culture of Latina Literature"
(Thesis advisor: Prof. W. David Coyoca)

JOSE I. SANCHEZ

"Surviving the Times: Subsisting within the Limits and Contradictions of Neoliberalism from an Undocumented Perspective"
(Thesis advisor: Prof. Lisa Cacho)

LA COLECTIVA

“La Colectiva has been a pioneer in various service projects throughout our community and this past year was no exception.”



Our mission is to advocate for social justice and change on behalf of all immigrants, while simultaneously serving the community by fostering leadership and providing resources through grassroots initiatives. La Colectiva has been a pioneer in various service projects throughout our community and this past year was no exception. One of our biggest accomplishments was the Secure Communities' forums we hosted throughout the year, with the end goal to get the Sheriff of Champaign to stop immigration holds by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Led by the Immigration Forum, we had a successful turnout at our last event where we were able to announce that Champaign County is no longer working with ICE! Our dedication to the community remains as strong as ever, as we are getting ready for a busy school year!

Alongside MEChA de UIUC, we were asked to put together an event for the Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration. It was entitled “I Have a Dream,” in which we were able to make the connection between people of color during the Civil Rights' Movement and today's undocumented students. We asked students to write down their personal dreams and read them aloud during a mock graduation at the Courtyard Café in the Illini Union. We received an excellent response from the University of Illinois students, as they were actively engaged in the process, some even revealing their own struggles as undocumented students in higher education.

Francisco Baires, our program coordinator for 2011-2012, worked intensely to develop La Linea Latina, a hotline, as part of the University YMCA. This is an ongoing project that is solely run by volunteers and serves as a safe space for the community to ask questions and seek out assistance.



Joanna Perez at the “I Have A Dream” event sharing her dream on stage.



A few La Colectiva members offer a few hours of their time each week to provide translation, education, and legal assistance.

We were also able to participate in La Casa Cultural Latina’s annual Latino Youth Conference in late April. An interactive workshop was put on in which we were able to communicate to a group of local high school students about attending college. Specifically, our workshop dealt with possible resources for undocumented students and information on the Illinois DREAM Act, which is currently available for undocumented students.

For the past two years, we have been attempting to gather funds for our We Dream, We Act Scholarship. This scholarship fund was specifically established in an effort to provide some financial relief to successful students at the University of Illinois. Once again, this year we were able to put together a successful fundraiser, where we raised over \$1,000 for the fund. We hope to be able to have the scholarship in working order to possibly hand out awards by the spring.

Also, we received news that through funding from United Way and the Sociological Initiatives Foundation, La Colectiva is looking forward to kicking off this year with a mentoring program geared toward Latino high school students in the Urbana School District. In addition, Professor Rosas will be offering a class that will cover the power of narratives. Students enrolled in the class will collect stories of undocumented youth in the area in an

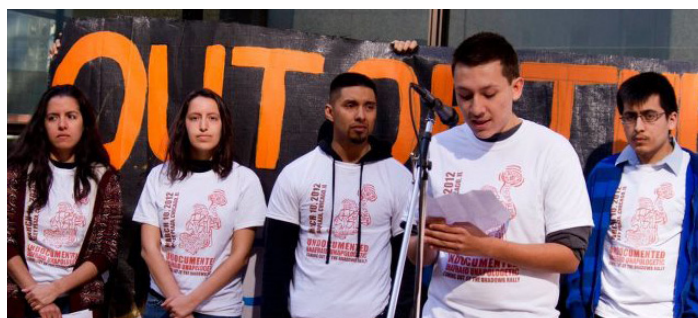
effort to better document their struggle in reaching higher education.

Finally, this year we are looking forward to more community involvement as we will host a movie series to serve as a gateway for discussing issues of concern. We will kick off this year by hosting an informative session on the DREAM Relief/Deferred Action immigration policy that will take place early on in the fall semester. We look forward to a productive year and look forward to your involvement!

If you have questions or need more information, you are welcome to contact us at lacolectivarso@gmail.com.



In the spring of 2011, we traveled to Chicago for an event ICIRR (Illinois Coalition for Immigrant & Refugee Rights) put together in support of the DREAM Act. President Hogan came out as well to voice his support for undocumented students at Illinois.



The Undocumented, Unafraid & Unapologetic event in Chicago. Several of our members attended this event in the Spring.



FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

JULIE DOWLING (Assistant Professor, Latina/Latino Studies) and **JONATHAN INDA** (Associate Professor, Latina/Latino Studies) have a co-edited volume coming out in Spring 2013, *Governing Immigration Through Crime: A Reader* (Stanford University Press). Since the 1970s, crime and punishment have become an increasingly central means through which political authorities in the United States seek to govern the conduct of individuals and populations. This contemporary emphasis on governing through crime has had a significant impact on how undocumented migration is problematized and managed. Indeed, unauthorized immigration has come to be seen largely as a law and order issue in the US. On the one hand, the nation has witnessed rather strong waves of anti-immigrant sentiment in which unauthorized migrants have fundamentally been cast as lawbreakers. And on the other, the measures employed to govern this population have been extremely exclusionary and punitive. This book focuses on a number of forms that governing immigration through crime has taken in the US. These range from restrictive immigration laws and enhanced border policing to workplace audits (silent raids), detention, deportation, and increased policing of immigration at the state and local level. Importantly, the book also highlights how migrants do not stand idly by and accept the highly punitive treatment to which they are subjected, but instead actively challenge the anti-immigrant climate and the governing of immigration through crime.

ISABEL MOLINA-GUZMÁN

(Associate Professor, Latina/Latino Studies & Media and Cinema Studies) published two essays, "Salma Hayek's Celebrity Activism: Constructing Race, Ethnicity, and Gender as Mainstream Global Commodities" in *Commodity Activism* (New York University Press, 2011) and "When I was... narratives of Spanish Caribbean identity" in *Geographies of Latinidad* (Peter Lang, 2012). She also presented her research at the Cultural Crossroads Cultural Studies Conference (Paris) and was also invited to lecture at the Ohio State University and Indiana-Purdue University Fort Wayne on Afro-Latinidad in the post-race media. Molina-Guzmán will be on sabbatical this coming year working on a book-length manuscript on Afro-Latinas/os and the media.

LISSETTE PIEDRA

(Associate Professor, Social Work) was promoted to Associate Professor. She received the 2012 Anthony Halter Teaching Excellence Award and was listed as Teachers Ranked as Excellent. Prof. Piedra received several grants to conduct research during the current and next academic year: two 2012-2013 Campus Research Board grants for the research projects *Examining the intervention effects on maternal depression among Latino immigrants* and *A social work and engineering study on water treatment in rural communities in Guatemala*, Marjorie M. Monkman Research Award for *From the bench to the community: Using CBPR to implement a culturally adapted intervention*, and a 2011-2012 Focal Point Grant for *Responding to Immigrants in New Growth Communities*. Piedra had several publications in 2012: Piedra et al., "Vida Alegre: Preliminary findings of a depression intervention for immigrant Latino mothers," *Research in Social Work Practice* and "Improving the parental self-agency of depressed Latino immigrant mothers: Piloted intervention results," *Children and Youth Services Review*. Her co-edited book, *Creating Infrastructures for Latino Mental Health* (New York: Springer Publishing Co.), came out in 2011. Forthcoming is a chapter titled "Debate Topic: Population Growth (Counterpoint)" in *SAGE Debating Issues in U.S. Immigration*.

RICHARD T. RODRIGUEZ

(Associate Professor, Latina/Latino Studies & English and Acting Chair) was named Acting Chair of the Department of Latina/Latino Studies for the 2012-13 academic year. His essay "Making Queer Familia" was published in *The Routledge Queer Studies Reader* (2012). Along with presenting at the Modern Language Association convention in Seattle and the National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies conference in Chicago, he delivered a talk sponsored by the Department of Latin American and Latina/o Studies at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York City, gave the keynote address to the Gender Matters conference at Governors State University, and served as moderator for a panel titled "Latina/o Writers on Chicago" sponsored by the Latina/Latino Studies Program at Northwestern University. Professor Rodríguez was also appointed to the Advisory Committee of the Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities.

GILBERTO ROSAS

(Assistant Professor, Latina/Latino Studies & Anthropology)

has a book forthcoming in 2012, *Barrio Libre (The Free 'Hood): Criminalizing States and Delinquent Refusals of the New Frontier* (Duke University Press). Prof. Rosas gave several talks during the past year: "Low Intensity Reinforcements: Cholos, Chántaros, and the Criminal Abandonments of the New Frontier," invited lecture given as part of Immigration Seminar Series and co-hosted by Latin@ Studies, Cornell University, on March 27, 2012; "El Muro (The Wall): On Borders and the New Wars of Insecurity," invited lecture given as part of Cornell's Institute for the Social Sciences Immigration Initiative, Cornell University, March 26, 2012; "El muro: fronteras, las nuevas exclusiones, y otras pesadillas," invited keynote lecture given at the Centro De Investigaciones y Estudios Superiores en Antropología Social (CIESAS) in Oaxaca, Mexico on March 10, 2012; "Narco-Political Nightmares and the Other Depths of Sovereignty of the New Frontier," invited lecture given at the conference "Rhetoric, and Political Culture: The Texture of Political Action" held at Northwestern University, February 24-25, 2012; and "El Muro (The Wall): On Borders, the New Exclusions, and Other Nightmares of Insecurity," invited lecture given to the York Centre for International and Security Studies (YCIS), Critical Border Studies Speaker Series, Toronto Canada, October, 13, 2011.

EDNA VIRUELL-FUENTES

(Assistant Professor, Latina/Latino Studies) received a grant from the Research Board at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign for the academic year 2012-2013 to continue investigating the relationship between ethnic/immigrant enclaves, immigration, and Latino health. The following publications are forthcoming: Viruell-Fuentes, E.A., Ponce, N., & Alegría, M., "Neighborhood Context and Hypertension Outcomes among Latinos in Chicago," *Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health*; Viruell-Fuentes, E.A., Miranda, P., & Abdulrahim, S., "More than Culture: Structural Racism, Intersectionality Theory, and Immigrant Health," *Social Science and Medicine*; Acevedo-García, D., Sanchez-Vaznaugh, E., Viruell-Fuentes, E.A., & Almeida, J., "Integrating Social Epidemiology into Immigrant Health Research: A Cross-national Framework," *Social Science and Medicine*; Ross, S.E., Francis, L.A., BeLue, R.Z. & Viruell-Fuentes, E.A., "Associations between Physical activity and Overweight among U.S. Youth by Immigrant Generation: Results from the 2007 National Survey of Children's Health." *Journal of Physical Activity & Health*, Expected publication: Volume 9, Issue 7; September, 2012.



Class of 2012 Graduates

UNDERGRADUATE MAJORS

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Terra Aguado | Eric R. Gonzales |
| Tatiana Alonso | Oscar Medina |
| Mariza O. Baeza | Oscar Patron |
| Victoria Briones | Janette Perez |
| Jonathan Brito | Jeramie Perez |
| Verally Calderon | Nancy Perez Cambron |
| Laura Cordova | Gabriela T. Rodriguez |
| Crystal De La Huerta | Jose I. Sanchez |
| Erick J. Giron Aleman | |



UNDERGRADUATE MINORS

- Arturo Huizar
- Audrey M. Jonas
- Diana Mazuera
- Elizabeth A. Sobenes

GRADUATE MINORS

- Kristina Medina Vilariño
(Ph.D., Department of Spanish, Italian, & Portuguese)
- Nibia Pastrana Santiago
(M.F.A., Department of Dance)
- Teresa Ramos
(Ph.D., Department of Anthropology)





SISTERS & LATINA/O STUDIES GRADUATES

By Gabriela & Sonia Rodriguez

As a first-generation college student, I found self-empowerment in the Latino/a Studies classes offered at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. While the blatant and inferential racism I felt seemed to plague my freshman experience, LLS 100 with Dr. Richard T. Rodriguez was a safe space to discuss these discriminations and give a name the oppressions in my community. It was LLS that spurred my interest in student and community activism while at the University. The content of the classes and the support of the professors and teaching assistants helped me better understand myself, the community I came from, and the change I could make. The literature classes, in particular, transformed my outlook and are the reason why I will continue by pursuing a doctorate in English with an emphasis in Latina/o children's and young adults' literature.

The year I transferred to the University of Illinois, was the same year my older sister Sonia graduated with Honors in the English department. I felt the pressure of having to follow in her footsteps and graduate with Honors in my major, which at the time was History, and also be the first Latina to do so because she was the first Latina to graduate from the English department with Honors. I put so much pressure on myself to try to achieve the same things she did; I ended up doing horribly the first semester, withdrawing from three classes and staying away from all the connections my sister had provided for me. As my second semester neared, I took a different approach and began seeking the guidance of Dr. Richard T. Rodriguez and Ronnie Kann. They helped me find my own



path in the University. I changed my major from History to Latina/Latino Studies in Spring 2011, due to Professor Burgos and Professor Coyoca whose Latina/Latino studies classes were the first one's I ever took. Both Professor Burgos and Professor Coyoca helped transform my outlook in the different issues that affect the Latino community and why I continue to want to make a difference by opening a non-profit organization that provides abused women with resources.

Gabriela graduated with Latina/Latino Studies major in 2012 and her sister Sonia graduated with a Latina/Latino Studies minor in 2009.

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