

IU Latino Alumni News

Vol. 4, No. 2/Spring 2004

Indiana University Latino Alumni Association

Some questions and answers about the LAA

How do I become a member of the Latino Alumni Association?

Because the LAA is an affiliate group of the IU Alumni Association, you are automatically a member of the LAA if: (1) you are a member of the IUAA; and (2) you "self-identified" as Latino or Hispanic upon enrollment at IU. The LAA has no further membership fees — that is included in your IUAA membership.

What if I am not Latino or I did not identify myself as Latino while at IU?

Even if you are not Latino, you can be a member of the LAA. The LAA is an inclusive organization that welcomes all interested parties. In this situation, you should indicate your interest in the LAA when you sign up for membership in the IUAA. To be sure you are on the mailing list, you can also send an e-mail to latinoaa@indiana.edu or call Michelle Gutierrez at (812) 855-9632.

If you are Latino, but did not "self-identify" as Latino or Hispanic upon enrollment at IU, you can request that the IUAA designate you as Latino. Many alumni attended IU before race and ethnicity questions were a part of the application process. Additionally, those who are biracial or bicultural may have checked another description.

Requests to be designated as Hispanic

or Latino should be made to Karl Zacker at the IUAA. He can be contacted via email at kzacker@indiana.edu or via telephone at (812) 855-0981.

What if I attended IU, but did not graduate?

Even if you only completed three credit hours at IU (and are no longer taking classes), you are considered an alumnus and are eligible for membership!

Can I be a member if I graduated from or attended another IU campus?

You are welcome to be a member if you graduated from another IU campus. However, because the LAA is relatively young, efforts will be focused on the particular concerns and experiences of IU Bloomington alumni. Once the LAA's presence is better established, the IUAA and the LAA will advocate for and assist other campuses in establishing alumni groups.

Why should I become a member?

Membership in the LAA is a way to reconnect and maintain contact with your college friends. The LAA publishes two newsletters annually, provides relevant information via an electronic newsletter, and holds an annual reunion and other regional events. Your membership makes

all of this possible.

Membership is also a way to give back to the campus. The Alumni Association connects with current students through a mentoring program and scholarship fund. The Alumni Association also plans to be involved with students through other events, such as the Latino Leadership Conference, held annually on the Bloomington campus.

IU news



Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education

included Indiana University Bloomington in its 2003 Publisher's Picks — a list of colleges and universities that are recognized for recruiting, enabling, and graduating Latino students. Selections were made based on surveys collected by the National Center for Education Statistics and anecdotal evidence.

On Feb. 19, **Danny Simonsohn**, BA'76, presented a lecture titled "Multicultural Corporate Communication" for students at La Casa.

On March 6, the LAA co-sponsored the **Latino Leadership Conference**, a conference organized by and for the benefit of Latino college and high school students. The LAA presented a panel discussion titled "Successful Leadership: Taking Charge of Your Career Path." Alumni on the panel included: **Julio Alonso, Alba Franco, David Gonzalez, and Steve Ruiz.**

On March 17, the LAA held a **Northwest Indiana Alumni Reception** at Chela's Kitchen in Griffith and enjoyed great food and even better company.

Save the date!

Join us for the second Latino Alumni Reunion

Oct. 8 – 10, 2004!

Visit our Web site

www.indiana.edu/~latinoaa

for more information

Meet the Latino Alumni Association board

Juan Anaya, treasurer: Juan M. Anaya is the principal for Hammond Clark Middle/High School. Clark is the single largest Hispanic school in Indiana with a student population of 1,600 and a 50 percent Hispanic student population. Anaya is a 2004 graduate of Indiana State University's PhD Educational Leadership and Administration Foundation program. He received his master's and bachelor's degrees from Indiana University Bloomington. He taught 13 years for the School City of East Chicago. During his teaching career, he began the Spanish for native Spanish speakers' course of study and the "Latin American Studies" course, and he co-founded "Viva la Hispanidad," a student organization dedicated to developing leadership skills, instilling cultural awareness and pride, and giving service to the community. He served as a vice principal for six years. During his tenure as vice principal, he developed and expanded the TESOL/ESL program, which services approximately 150

students. For two years he was principal of West Side Junior High School before moving to his current position. Anaya is also a member of the East Chicago Evening Lions, Hammond Hispanic Community Council, "Viva la Hispanidad," NASSP, and is a founding member of the Harold Gomez Chapter of the American G.I. Forum.

Cindy Cervantes, secretary: Cindy Cervantes is a sales representative for GE Supply in Indianapolis, Ind. She graduated from IU Bloomington with a bachelor's of arts degree in telecommunications and Spanish in 2000. The mother of a beautiful, 21-month-old daughter, Elena, she is currently planning her wedding for the end of May 2004. She is serving a two-year term as secretary of the Latino Alumni Association and looks forward to accomplishing goals set by the board through the collective efforts of alumni and the student body. Her major focus now will be supporting the 2004 Latino Alumni Reunion Committee.

Alba Franco, at-large board member, Reunion Committee chair: Alba Franco is currently a human resources manager for the North American Agent Operations/Xerox Channel Group division of Xerox Corp. Franco is responsible for managing the day-to-day HR operations for a U.S.-wide marketing/sales group and implementing various HR processes and programs in areas such as leadership development,

succession planning, and diversity.

A native Hoosier, Franco is twice a graduate of Indiana University Bloomington, receiving a bachelor of science in business administration in 1985, and then, as a recipient of a two-year fellowship from the Consortium for Graduate Study in Management, receiving an MBA in human resources management in 1987.

While at IUB, she was an IUSA Senator, representing family-housing students. She also served as president of Latinos Unidos. She was a member of the Mortar Board National Honor Society. Franco resides in Fishers, Ind., and is a member of the Society of Human Resources Management and of the Indianapolis chapter of the National Hispanic MBAs.

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Some Northwest Indiana reception attendees are, from left, David Gonzalez, Leticia Zapata-Gonzalez, and Gavin Zapata.

Latino Alumni News

IU Latino Alumni News is published by the IU Alumni Association for the IU Latino Alumni Association to encourage alumni interest in and support for IU. For membership information, please call (800) 824-3044 or e-mail ualumni@indiana.edu.

IU Latino Alumni Board

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SUGGESTIONS WANTED

Your input is requested in choosing the theme of the upcoming Latino Alumni Reunion. If your theme is chosen, you will receive a complimentary individual registration for the fall 2004 reunion. Last year's theme was "Latinos at IU: Past, Present, and Future."

Please e-mail your suggestions (along with contact information) to latinoaa@indiana.edu by May 1, 2004.

LAA scholarship, mentoring program under way

Dear Latino Alumni:

My name is Liliana Garcia, and I am currently the student representative to the Latino Alumni Association. As a student, I feel that alumni can play a major role in students' lives. Alumni possess knowledge of the college world as well as the real world. By getting involved, you can continue to help make a difference on campus by providing students with a support network to turn to. Interestingly enough, from past conversations with alumni, I have learned that a great deal of change has occurred within IU; however, still much more is needed. Today, we are still placed in very similar situations of being first generation, encountering culture shock, and trying to define who we are as Latinos.

My primary mission from the association is to increase the communication and involvement between alumni and students. I would like to help build the bridge between the two worlds, so that we may be able to come together and learn from one another.

Two developments that will begin this connection are the establishment of a Latino Alumni Scholarship and a mentoring program. This semester, a scholarship fund was started; and the first scholarship will be awarded in fall 2004. I see how many of us struggle financially to get through school, and many times,



Lupe Valtierra, from left, Latino Alumni Association student representative Liliana Garcia, Alberto Torchinsky, and Josefa "Pepa" Madrigal chat during last year's alumni reunion.

this struggle negatively reflects on our academics. With the financial support of our alumni, a scholarship fund can be developed to assist students in need or to reward academically strong individuals who have proven their dedication to school.

In addition to the scholarship program, the association has started a mentoring program that will bring interested alumni and students together for formal and informal gatherings. The mentoring program will allow students to develop relationships with alumni so that together we can make a difference in each

other's lives and our communities.

As a third-year student, I have strived to make a change at IU. I hope that you, too, will join me in attaining this goal. College is a great opportunity to grow as an individual; however, there are times when you need someone to talk to who can relate to your situation. With your involvement in the Latino Alumni Association, IU Latino students can have the opportunity to refer to alumni for guidance in our development into becoming the future leaders of tomorrow.

— Liliana Garcia

Board of directors: Call for nominations

The Elections Committee of the Latino Alumni Association is accepting nominations for the board of directors.

At-large board members

- Two positions open
- One-year term for 2004–05 (to complete term)

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- Nominations must be received by May 1, 2004.
 - Self-nominations are acceptable and encouraged.
 - Nominees must be members in good standing of the LAA.
 - Nominations should be submitted through our Web site, using the online nomination form. Paper nomination forms are available upon request.

For complete information and to submit your nomination, please visit our Web site at www.indiana.edu/~latinoaa.



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
LATINO ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Distinguished Latino Alumni nominations being accepted

You may use this form to nominate someone for the Distinguished Latino Alumni Award. It must be accompanied by a statement of nomination explaining the significant contributions the nominee has made in his or her community, state, nation, or university and a résumé or biographical data of the person you are nominating. Check out our Web site for the full criteria for the award. You may also nominate someone through our website at: www.indiana.edu/~latinoaa/index.html.

Distinguished Latino Alumni Award Nomination

Please return this form to the Latino Alumni Association,
108 Memorial Hall West, 1021 E. Third St., Bloomington, IN 47405.
Phone: (812) 855-9632. Fax (812) 856-5477.
Nominations are due by **June 1, 2004**.



Nominee: _____ Date _____

Last name while at IU _____

Degree(s) and years: _____

Business title: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____

Nominated by: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____

Signature: _____

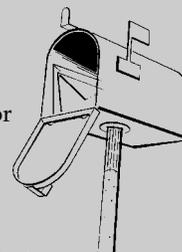
Maria Ramirez, left, and Elizabeth Ontiveros catch up on news at the alumni reception held at Chela's in Griffith, Ind., on March 17. Attending the event were alumni, Latino Alumni Association board members, IU Northwest and IU Bloomington staff and students, and friends and family.



Alumni notes 1990s

Alisha M. Diaz-Bole, MS'97, is a former IU Student Alumni Association graduate-student adviser. She writes, "I am on a 10-year maternity leave from higher education. My husband, Ken, is a captain in the Air Force. We have the most beautiful baby boy, Kenneth Jr., born in January 2003. We are happily living in Hampton, Va., and our address is alishatulips@msn.com. Please write or come visit us!"

Francisco J. "Frankie" Ramis, BS'97, is a senior account supervisor with Paradigm Associates. He and his wife, **Karina Galletti**, BS'99, have an infant daughter, Natalia. The family lives in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and can be reached at frames@paradigmpr.net.



2000s

Christine M. Berthoud Valdez, BS'03, moved to Orlando, Fla., and can be reached at christine.valdez@misyshealthcare.com.

Contact us!

Michelle Gutierrez
LAA liaison: (812) 855-9632

E-mail:
latinoaa@indiana.edu

Web site:
www.indiana.edu/~latinoaa

IUAA membership:
(800) 824-3044 or
iualumni@indiana.edu



Board

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Cynthia Giesecke, vice president, Scholarship Committee chair: Cynthia Giesecke received her BA in biology in 2001, with a minor in Spanish and criminal justice. Currently, she is a member of the Gordon Officers' Wives' Club and volunteers at the OWC Thrift Shop. In addition, she is certified as a volunteer income tax assistant for military personnel, civilians, and retirees. She is also an instructor with the Army Family Team Building Program, which provides military families the education and opportunity for personal and professional development. She has taught classes, including Chain of Command and Chain of Concern; Military Grade and Command Structure; and Traditions, Customs, and Courtesies.

Giesecke is an El Paso, Texas, native and lives with her husband and daughter. She decided to join the LAA in hopes of getting alumni informed and of increasing membership in the association. She firmly believes that "actions speak louder than words" and is determined to work hard to see change.

Danny Simonsohn, at-large board member, Special Events Committee chair: Danny Simonsohn is an international senior project manager with Avaya Communications. He has also worked as a systems analyst during his time with Avaya. Simonsohn graduated from IU Bloomington in 1976 with a double major in political science and music and later earned his MBA from Universidad Inter-Americana de Puerto Rico. While at IU, Danny played on the varsity soccer team. After graduation, he went on to play soccer professionally with Club Remanso (Puerto Rico) and Apoel Tel Aviv. He is currently president of HISPA, the association of Hispanic Avaya employees, and is a member of the IU Bloomington Parents' Advisory Council. He has also been involved with the Alliance of Latinos and Jews (Chicago) and the National Society of Hispanic MBAs. Simonsohn was born in Bogota, Colombia, and currently lives in Miami Beach, Fla.

Esther Vargas, president: Esther Vargas is director of resource development for the HOPE Foundation, a national nonprofit organization providing training in educational leadership. She is a 2000 graduate of the Indiana University Kelley School of Business, Bloomington.

She has served as director of outreach for the Hoosier Hills Career Center and as fundraising coordinator for the Middle Way House. Prior to coming to Indiana to pursue graduate studies, Vargas founded and managed her own business, Ideal Language, providing language acquisition and cultural assimilation services to multinational expatriates in Puerto Rico. Vargas is currently the board president of El Centro Comunal Latino, a recently founded Latino community center in Bloomington, Ind.

Leticia Zapata-Gonzalez, at-large board member, Membership Committee chair: Leticia Zapata-Gonzalez is a sales associate with Century 21 Realty Group Sabbagh-Pickens. She also does freelance graphic design work. Zapata-Gonzalez previously worked for IU in the Office of Publications and the Office of Communications and Marketing and graduated from IU in 1989 with a bachelor's in fine arts. Zapata-Gonzalez serves on the board



Visiting at the Northwest Indiana reception are, from left, Juan Lopez, Angelita Lopez, Raul Sanchez, and Cindy Cervantes.

of El Centro Comunal Latino, serves as adviser to Latinos Unidos, and devotes time to Habitat for Humanity. Zapata-Gonzalez was born and raised in Bunker Hill, Ind., and has lived in Bloomington for more than 20 years. She is married to David Gonzalez, BA'01.



2004 marks the 150th birthday of the IU Alumni Association.

Show your IU pride by becoming a member during this special year of celebration!

Join or renew today and stay connected to IU.

Visit www.alumni.indiana.edu or call (800) 824-3044.

Be part of the IU Alumni Association's 150th Commemorative Directory in 2004.

Work has begun on the 2004 IU Alumni Association 150th commemorative directory, a valuable tool for building and maintaining a strong personal and professional network.

The directory will contain listings of all IUAA members. For information, e-mail the IUAA membership dept. at iuaamemb@indiana.edu or call (800) 824-3044.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



150 years of
Connecting alumni. Serving IU.



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What's new with you?

The IU Alumni Association is charged with maintaining records for all IU alumni. Please print as much of the following information as you wish. Its purpose, in addition to providing us with your class note, is to keep IU's alumni records accurate and up to date. To verify and update your information online, visit our online alumni directory at www.alumni.indiana.edu/directory.

Publication carrying this form: Latino Alumni Newsletter Date _____

Name _____

Preferred Name _____

Last name while at IU _____ IU Degree(s)/Yr(s) _____

Soc. Sec. # or Student ID # _____

Home address _____ Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Business title _____ Company/Institution _____

Company address _____ Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

*E-mail _____ *Home page URL _____

**Please indicate clearly upper and lower case.*

Mailing address preference: Home Business

Spouse name _____ Last name while at IU _____

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Please send me information about IU Alumni Association programs, services, and communications.

Please mail to the address above, or fax to (812) 855-8266.