

# La Voz

## La Voz

December 16, 2011  
Vol. 1 Issue 1



### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



¡LA VOZ! THE VOICE! Whose voice? In this case, and perhaps uniquely among departmental newsletters, it is the voice of our students, who are the ones primarily responsible for putting out this newsletter (with the guidance of Professor Belinda Rincón – thanks Belinda!). And it is appropriate that the students spearhead this effort. Our Department has a long and proud tradition of putting students first and our faculty members have long relished the role of attracting students to our Department – even without offering a B.A. degree! That’s the first thing I noticed about the Latin American and Latina/o Studies Department when I initially visited in 2009: what are all these students doing hanging around here? It’s simple: they feel this Department is their John Jay home. And the B.A. is coming and so are the new offices in the new building. Both of those developments present even greater opportunities to serve our students. Just two years ago we had a department with only four faculty members, colleagues who, together with the College administration, laid the foundation for our growth. Today we are nearly twice that number and poised to make an even greater impact on our students’ education and on the intellectual climate of the College. I was one of those who arrived less than two years ago, trading the Florida sunshine for the opportunity to work with the students and faculty in this College. And I have never looked back. Así que ¡p’alante muchacha/os! ¡Alcen esa VOZ! Raise that VOICE!

Lisandro Pérez  
Professor and Chair  
Department of Latin American and Latina/o Studies

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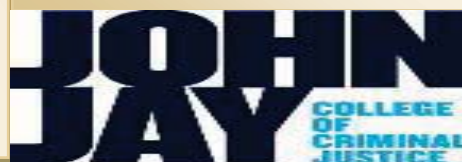
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# FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS



**Belinda Rincón**  
*Assistant Professor*

- Presented a paper entitled "Revolutionary Development Discourse in Maria Cristina Mena's *The Water Carrier's Secret* (1942)" at the American Literature Association in Boston in May, 2011.
- Her article entitled "Media, Militarism, and Mythologies of the State: The Latino Soldier in World War II Films" appeared in the Summer/Autumn 2011 volume of the *Latino Studies* journal.
- Awarded a 2012 Faculty Fellowship by the American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education, a national organization that promotes Latina/o faculty and students in higher education.



**Jodie G. Roure**  
*Associate Professor*

- Co-Authored article entitled *So You Want to be a Lawyer. Puerto Ricans and Their Journey into the Legal Profession: Overcoming Challenges* at the invitation of Associate Dean Penny Andrews to the CUNY Law School Faculty in Queens
- Lectured in the CUNY School of Law's Domestic Violence Clinic on *Domestic Violence, International Human Rights and Constitutional Law Protections: Developments, Practices, and Providing Culturally Sensitive Services*
- Presented to a group of lawyers and practitioners at the law firm of Willkie, Farr, and Gallagher, LLP in New York on *Latinos/as in the Legal Pipeline: Challenges and Obstacles*.
- Co-presented and moderated a panel at the CUNY BMI Sixth Annual Conference, Hunter

College, New York on *Current Enrollment Trends of Latinas/os in Law School*.



**Brian Montes**  
*Assistant Professor*

- Presented a paper entitled "Puerto Rican Youth and the Criminal Justice System" at the Puerto Rican Social Conditions and Public Policy Conference at the Center for Puerto Rican Studies, Hunter School of Social Work.
- Presented a paper entitled "We Too Remember: Testimonies of Yucatan's Caste War" at the 7th Annual Indigenous and American Studies Storyteller's Conference at the University of the New York at Buffalo.
- Has a forthcoming chapter on Chicanos in *Latinas/os and Criminal Justice: An Encyclopedia* (Greenwood Press) ed., José Luis Morín, scheduled for release in 2012.



**Isabel Martinez**  
*Assistant Professor*

- Her dissertation entitled "Making Transnational Adults from Youth: Mexican Immigrant Youth in Pursuit of the Mexican Dream" was recently honored as a finalist in the 2011-2012 American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education/Educational Testing Services Outstanding Dissertation Competition
- Currently a Digital Humanities Initiative Fellow at Hamilton College
- McNair Faculty Fellow
- Selected as a 2012 American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education National Conference Faculty Fellow
- Selected as a 2012 CUNY Faculty Fellowship Publication Program participant.
- Has a forthcoming chapter on the US-Mexico border in *Latinas/os and Criminal Justice: An Encyclopedia* (Greenwood Press), ed., José Luis Morín, scheduled for release in 2012.



**Suzanne Oboler**  
*Professor*

- Named Fulbright Distinguished Chair in American Studies in Brazil.
- Taught a graduate seminar course on "Race and Citizenship in the Americas" during the Spring 2011 semester at the Pontificia Universidade de Católica in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- Traveled all over Brazil where she gave lectures and workshops on US Latino/as and Latino immigration to professors and students at Universities in several major cities of Brazil.
- Conducted research on prisoner reentry programs and on race and immigrants in Brazil.
- Published the article, "Nativismo, Imigração e Pertencimento: Latinos nas (Ir)Realidades Americanas do Século XXI" ( "Nativism, Immigration and Belonging: Latinos and the (Un)realities of US society in the 21st century" )
- Keynote speaker at the Fulbright International Seminar on "Contemporary Challenges of Human Rights in the 21st Century" held in June 2011 at the Pontificia Universidade Católica in Rio de Janeiro



**Francois Restrepo**  
*Adjunct Professor*

Assistant Director, John Jay College Ronald H. Brown Summer Law School Prep Program

- Has forthcoming chapters on *Hernandez v. Texas* and "Incarceration and Latinas/os in the United States" in *Latinas/os and Criminal Justice: An Encyclopedia* (Greenwood Press), ed., José Luis Morín, scheduled for release in 2012.



**Andel Nicasio**  
***Adjunct Professor***

- Program Manager, Community Project Associate, New York State Psychiatric Institute Center of Excellence for Cultural Competence

National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare (National Council) has announced selection for the inaugural 2011 class of its Addressing Health Disparities Leadership Programs. Andel Nicasio was one of the twenty chosen from 130 applicants from healthcare organizations across the country. The program is designed to mentor culturally diverse mid-level managers into executive positions and to nurture leaders who can represent and serve our nation's diverse communities.



**Lisandro Pérez A.K.A El "Jefe"**

Lisandro Pérez, Professor and Department Chair, will travel to Havana and Cienfuegos in January of 2012 to form part of the jury of the 2012 Latino Studies Prize to be awarded by Casa de la Américas, one of Cuba's oldest and most prestigious literary and cultural institutions. In April 2012, Professor Pérez will participate in two sessions of the XXX International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association, which will meet in San Francisco. One session is a panel on *The State of Cuban Studies*, the other is a session on *Latinoamericanos in 19<sup>th</sup>-Century New York*, in which he will present a paper entitled, "The Zenea Affair (1870) and the Formation of a Cuban Émigré Political Culture," part of his research on the history of New York's Cuban community. During the Fall 2011 semester, Professor Pérez finished the final draft of his manuscript, "Cuban Americans and U.S. Cuba Policy," which will appear as a chapter in a book on the influence of diasporas and U.S. foreign policy to be published by the United States Institute for Peace and the Social Science Research Council.

# New Familia



**Di'Indra Forgenie**  
***Adjunct Professor***

- Passing the 2011 New York State Bar Exam I have been lucky enough to have had the support and nurturing of the Latin American Studies Department, a department I am now proud to be a faculty member of, since my sophomore year of college as a John Jay student. Throughout the years I have been able to turn to various faculty members within the department in times of great difficulty to seek advice, and without all of these amazing mentors and colleagues, my recent achievement of passing the 2011 New York State Bar Exam would not have been possible.



**John Gutiérrez**  
***Substitute Lecturer***

- Currently working as a Senior Political Analyst for Univision/WXTV
  - Vice-President for *Miram Group*, New York
- John Gutiérrez joins the Latin American and Latina/o Studies faculty after several years working in the private sector as a political consultant and market researcher. He is completing his dissertation on the politics of public health in early republican Cuba at the CUNY Graduate Center. John is no stranger to CUNY having taught at Hunter College, Lehman College and Bronx Community College. He is happy to be teaching full-time again and joining a department that combines great scholarship with great warmth.

The LLS department made a strong showing at the 2011 Undergraduate Dean's List Reception. The following faculty members were recognized for having played a role in student academic success:

**PROFESSOR ISABEL MARTINEZ**

**PROFESSOR FRANCOIS RESTREPO**

**PROFESSOR JODIE ROURE**

**PROFESSOR BRIAN MONTES**

**PROFESSOR BELINDA RINCÓN**

**PROFESSOR DANIEL SHAW**

The faculty would like to give sincere and special thanks to the students who nominated them for this honor.

# STUDENT ISSUES

## The American Dream

Elizabeth Calixto



The DREAM Act short form for Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act is an American Legislative proposal first introduced in the United States Senate on August 1, 2001 and most recently reintroduces again on May 11, 2011. The purpose of the DREAM Act is to help individuals gain legal status and a path to citizenship. It provides a six-year path to permanent residency for some children of undocumented immigrants. Under the act, the specifically defined group of people can attain full citizenship if they keep their criminal record clean, graduate high school and attend college or join the military. Senate bill 952 which was introduced earlier this year did not pass due to the lack of support in the Senate. Some Republicans who had supported the bill in the past, including Sen. John Cornyn of Texas, Jon Kyl of Arizona, John McCain of Arizona, and Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, withheld their votes, objecting that such a bill should not be granted without some sort of balance that includes increasing immigration enforcement. If the difficulties that the Senate is having in passing a bill where all parties are satisfied continues, it will crush the dreams of many people who now qualify. This act stands in sharp contrast to radical immigration laws in Arizona and Alabama, which uses police-state powers to choke off all opportunity for undocumented immigrants and force them into hidden, impoverished lives.

Many supporters of the act say that this legislation will in fact give a boost to the economy which earlier this year was in a recession. The recession brought about the largest collapse in state revenues on record, and states are just beginning to recover from that collapse. As of the first quarter of 2011, revenues remained roughly 9 percent below prerecession levels. Even though the revenue outlook is better than it was, states still are addressing very large budget shortfalls. In fiscal year 2012, some 42 states and the District of Columbia have closed, or are working to close a \$103 billion in budget gaps. These gaps come on top of the large shortfalls the states faced in fiscal years 2009 through 2011. States will continue to struggle to find the revenue needed to support critical public services like education, health care, and human services for a number of years. Over 30 states have raised taxes to at least some degree, in some cases quite significantly. In a December 2010 report, the Congressional Budget Office and the Joint Committee on Taxation estimated that the November 30th, 2010, version of the DREAM Act would "reduce deficits by about \$1.4 billion over the 2011-2020 period and increase government revenues by \$2.3 billion over the next 10 years." The same report also notes that the Act "would increase projected deficits by more than \$5 billion in at least one of the four consecutive 10-year periods starting in 2021." One recent UCLA study estimates that between \$1.4 trillion and \$3.6 trillion in taxable income would be generated for the economy over a 40 year period based upon estimates ranging between 825,000 and 2.1 million potential DREAM Act beneficiaries successfully obtaining resident status through the legislation.

Failing to come to an agreement, many states have proposed their own state DREAM Act. The first to do so was California. The California DREAM Act will help lift barriers to college for thousands of undocumented students. The first part (July 25, 2011) of the two-bill package allows students to apply for private scholarships and loans; the second (October 8, 2011) makes them eligible to seek state-financed aid, now that Gov. Jerry Brown signed the state's groundbreaking and controversial DREAM Act. The bill is different from the federal DREAM Act, which includes a path to citizenship for the children of undocumented immigrants. On August 1, 2011 just a week after California passed the first part of its own DREAM Act, Illinois Governor Pat Quinn signed the Illinois DREAM Act into law creating a privately-funded scholarship program for documented and undocumented immigrants, a move supporters hailed as a civil rights victory. Illinois, a state with one of the highest populations of undocumented aliens, is the latest to pass such a measure. The signing took place at Benito Juarez High School in Chicago's largely Latino Pilsen neighborhood. Quinn stuck to the basics of the debate, framing the bill as a question of access. "All children have the right to a first-class education," he said. "The Illinois DREAM Act creates more opportunities for the children of immigrants to achieve a fulfilling career, brighter future, and better life through higher education." In New York State the NYS Board of Regents is prepared to enter the next phase of its legislative push to help undocumented immigrants who enter college by officially adopting a plan that will help them financially. The Regents' proposal asks to pass a law giving undocumented immigrants who graduate from high school in New York access to financial aid, scholarships, student loans and other types of incentives that are now offered only to United States citizens. NY DREAM Act would allow these young people to legally work, have access to state health care, get a driver's license, and obtain scholarships and financial aid, a provision that crumbled under intense criticism in 2007, after it was proposed by Gov. Eliot Spitzer. This act may help out the undocumented immigrant in New York State, but this bill does not lead to a path of citizenship. My question is do we look at this situation as the cup half empty or the cup half full?

# Student Accomplishments

**Todd Beharry** is currently a junior at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. He is a Humanities and Justice Major as well as an English and Philosophy minor. Todd Beharry is a Ronald H. Brown Fellow who has completed two internships this past summer. His first internship was a Judicial Internship at the Bronx County Family Courthouse. His second internship was a non-judicial internship with the Queens Legal Aid Society. Todd Beharry is also a fellow for Fordham Law School's BALSALALS Fellowship Program. This fellowship program implements mentorship in relationships between undergraduate students and law school students providing him and others with social networks with law students.

**Elizabeth Calixto** is currently a junior at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. She is a Forensic Psychology major and also a Latin American and Latina/o Studies minor. She has recently been accepted to the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program. The major objective of the program is to help increase the participation of first generation, low-income students and/or students from under-represented groups in graduate education, specifically in doctoral programs of study. She is also actively involved in the Students for Immigration Awareness Club and the Latin American and Latina/o Studies Department newsletter. Her research interest is Mexican male migration and its affect on sexuality.



**Alejandro Madi** started at LaGuardia in 2009 where he was the founder of the Political Arena Club, attended the CUNY Model Senate in Albany, and became the Student Government Association President for the 2010-2011 academic year. During his term, the SGA organized an Immigration Awareness Week and Human Rights Week in which they collected and donated personal care items to shelters; lobbied to support the Pell Grant in Washington, D.C.; and held the first CUNY SGA President Summit. This year he received the LaGuardia Faculty Council's Alan J. Berman [Scholarship](#) and was recognized at the 2011 CUNY Student Leadership Awards Ceremony. Alejandro Madi has worked with University Student Senate in creating programs throughout CUNY to help students and in their opposition to the Tuition Hikes. He is currently a researcher at the Bildner Center for Western Hemisphere Studies and is attending John Jay College of Criminal Justice, majoring in Political Science, with a minor in Latin American Studies.

**Daynia A. Vazquez**, a proud Bronx native, is an award-winning senior at John Jay. Majoring in Forensic Psychology with an Honors Minor in Latin American and Latina/o Studies, Daynia was a Dean's List awardee in Fall 2011. Most recently, she was awarded the 2011-2012 New York League of Puerto Rican Women, Inc. and the 2011-2012 Comité Noviembre scholarships. A role model to young Latina women, she has been invited by the New York City Department of Education to speak to high school-age females about pursuing higher education, specifically in Psychology and the Law. She is currently preparing to apply to graduate school for Fall/Spring 2012-2013. Notably, Daynia will be the second woman in her family to obtain a Bachelor's degree.

# A GLANCE AT LATIN AMERICA



## THE DECADE OF LATIN AMERICA

by Alejandro Madi

We have always assumed that the number one reason why so many Latinos/Hispanics immigrate to the U.S. is because within that region of clustered countries lies a dysfunctional economic structure that leaves many behind. Nonetheless, over the past decade something new has happened, a region once violated by powerful nations is emerging strong and much more confident than before. Indeed, over the past 10 years Latin America has seen its greatest economic growth even at the time when "developed" nations were suffering from their worst economic recession since the 1930s. The growth, nonetheless, varies within each country, within what form of government they have, and what kind of natural resources. Latin America's economic surge forecasted over the past 5 years at an average of 4.8% per year, indeed demonstrates the surging power of this once abandoned region. Brazil has grown at an average level of 7.8% over the past 10 years, placing itself as an emerging global player. Mexico, Peru, Argentina, Colombia and Panama have also seen an immense influx of capital that has given a sense of stability to these fragile democracies. Chile and Uruguay for instance, were rated just a few weeks ago as the least corrupted nations in all of America, going above the U.S and Canada. Yet, countries like Venezuela, Nicaragua, Ecuador, and Bolivia have seen a much lower growth in their economies, even seeing a shrinking in 2010 of 4.5% in their economy as it happened in Venezuela. These countries also happen to be part of what Hugo Chavez; president of Venezuela calls the ALBA countries. These nations are currently run by ultra-radical leftist governments, who have over the past decade tried to implement a failed system of communism that has been proven not to work (ex. China, Russia, Poland, Vietnam). President Chavez calls it "Socialism of the 21st Century", I call it "failed socialism of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century". As Latin America emerges stronger and more confident in its ability to set a course in their economies, one major factor needs to be highlighted. They have proven that through democracy and a more controlled form of capitalism Latin America can succeed, while others, like the ALBA countries linger in an inept labyrinth of failed ideals. This is Latin America's decade, stayed tuned as we continue to see it shine.

### The Nuyorican Cafe

Where: 236 East 3rd Street  
Between Ave B & C  
Reverend Pedro Pietri Way  
New York City

When: Every Friday night  
there are poetry slams with a  
wide variety of inner city  
artist performing their poems.

Time: 10:00 p.m  
Tickets are \$10

### **Dec. 9**

"A Grito for the People"  
Featuring member of El Grito  
de Poetas, this show intends  
to honor the less fortunate  
during the holidays. An Open  
mic will also be held.

Tickets are \$10

### **Dec.10**

Yuerbabuena will be  
performing at 10 p.m

Tickets are \$10

For more information on  
upcoming events at the  
Nuyorican Cafe go to:

[www.nuyorican.org](http://www.nuyorican.org)

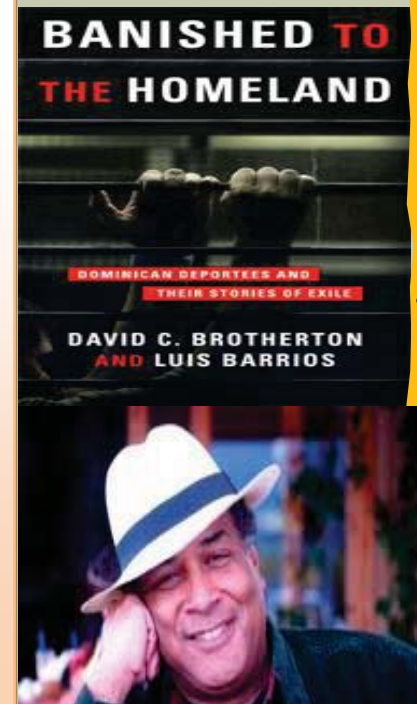
By: Yalitz Rodriguez

# Past Events

## *LUIS BARRIOS: BOOK PRESENTATION*

by: Maricela Cano

On November 2011 Professor Luis Barrios along with Professor David Brotherton, presented their co-authored *Banished to the Homeland*. The book is about the journey of five deportees and the struggles they encountered once they were deported back to their native land of the Dominican Republic. Professor Barrios speaks about the racism and xenophobia that is created in the United States against immigrants in what he likes to call a "bulimic society." "We have a schizophrenic immigration nation," states Professor Barrios in his lecture. Every year an estimate of 200,000 to 400,000 will be deported. With no cedula (I.D Card) and jobs, it makes it nearly impossible for these deportees to find any type of stability when they return to their native countries. As these deportees return to their native countries, they face many challenges including psychosocio traumas, homelessness and the reality of being a burden to society and more importantly to their families. This book provides an excellent context of the lives of deportees in the Dominican Republic and what they face every day being in a country that is not the country that has adopted them. This book is available at Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble.



On November 3, 2011, the Latin American Studies Department held a workshop on the Graduate and Law School Application Process that is mandatory for students who want a Latin American and Latina/o Studies Honors Minor. Professor Jodie Roure and Professor Belinda Rincón presented power points explaining the steps into applying and getting into Graduate/Law School. As one of the Workshop participants, I feel this workshop was very instructional because Professor Roure broke down each college year into the steps that are needed to successfully apply to law school, and the hierarchy of higher education and potential earning salaries depending on how far you reach in the educational hierarchy. Professor Rincón, on the other hand, explained everything there is needed to know on taking the GRE; from the application process, to the cost of the GRE. I highly recommend this workshop next semester for anyone who is interested in attending higher education. More information will be posted next semester in our website.

By Maricela Cano

On December 7, 2011, in the New Building at John Jay College, we welcomed CUNY Professor and author, Lyn Di Iorio. She introduced us to her debut novel *Outside the Bones*, where she uses the Afro-Caribbean religion of Palo Monte as the context of her story set in Manhattan's West Side. Fina Mata, the protagonist, is a street smart woman who is determined to get her man. While Fina, the neighborhood Bruja, tries to get her man, she encounters situations that are sometimes funny, dark, scary, sexy, and magical. In this context, the author explores issues of race, class, and identity. With students eager to know about her writing process, Lyn Di Iorio answered questions about how she does it, where she finds inspiration and how it all starts. She even stayed a while after the reading and Q&A to chat with some of us one-on-one. We thank Lyn Di Iorio for sharing her time and stories with us. Thanks also, to Christopher Avilés, Professors Richard Pérez and Belinda Rincón along with the Department of English and the Department of Latin American and Latina Studies for bringing it all together.



By: Yalitza Rodriguez



# Mr. Christopher Aviles

To me, Chris will forever be the person who was most responsible for making sure my experience at John Jay has been enjoyable. Chris really has been the heart and soul of the department, so his departure will be a difficult one. However, I always knew that we were on borrowed time, and better things. I expected nothing but grand things from Chris in the future and I know he will accomplish them. Love you Chris! Das it!

-Isabel



Christopher!!

Although I am thrilled for you and the exciting future that awaits, I am selfishly sad for the LLS familia. It has felt like a familia largely because of you. You have a way of making people feel welcomed and of infusing the atmosphere with your positive Boricua energy. You make sure that we celebrate everyone's birthday and that we share our condolences when loved ones pass. You have an uncanny memory that contains all of the details that make our department function. With just one little Post-It pad, you keep the department running like a fine-tuned car. Of course, I should be saying all of this in the past tense, since you will be leaving us shortly. However, my mind cannot process your impending absence. I will miss your jokes and laughter and hope that your new colegas can appreciate you as much as we do. Buena suerte, amigo.

-Belinda



To Our Chris,

Another bitter sweet moment in the chapter of my life at John Jay College. I am THRILLED that you will be promoted and compensated for all of your incredible abilities and talent. You are simply AMAZING!!!!!!!! ABOUT TIME!!! OMG, we are in trouble, ayyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyy----- but good for you!!! This is a true development opportunity for you and I wish you all the best. It is a total loss for the college and our department, but you are our priority and your growth is our growth. Bravo Chris!

I must say that my heart hurts when I think that I will not see you every week day because you simply make my day and quality of life better. However, I know where you will be and will seek you out!

As for the twins, Anani and Jonathan, well ... they will definitely not understand why they will not be seeing you when they come to mama's work. They run from the elevator straight to your door just so they can jump all over you because they know you will let them and love you so much. I should not forget to mention that they love your collection of items from around the world which never ceases to amaze them and keeps them endlessly occupied. So they will likely visit you at NCC and likely ask to go to your house to find you. You have been a big part of their lives since they were born. That will never change, no matter where you are for any of us. I promise. They would never have it even if you wanted it anyway, lol! They adore you! I do too!

I miss you and you have not left.

Love ya to death!

-Jodie



Chris,

Thanks for always being there and for helping me in my transition to John Jay. You made it your responsibility to make sure that I was never in over my head and for that I am grateful. I don't think our department will be the same without you and I know for sure that no one can replace the love, energy, and laughter that you bring to the department. I am going to miss you. Thanks for everything.

-Brian

"Dear, Chris,  
Professionally, your dedication and commitment to this department and its staff are admirable, exemplary, and unmatched. There is no way that working here could have been as pleasant and manageable without your effective and immediate oversight. I have no doubt that your prosperity and success will be continuous.

Personally, I value and honor your friendship, guidance, and support. You have been a true comrade in every sense of the word. Stay cool, Bacano.

French



The little time I spend with Chris has been a great experience, as a work study and as a great friend. Chris's personality makes everybody around him comfortable and brings out the best in them. It sucks that I only had the opportunity to work with Chris for one year, but what I gained was friendship which lasts for a long time and that is alright for me. Chris, I wish you the best and nothing but the best and what matters the most is that you're happy and you reach your highest potential. Das it!

-Kevin

Hermanito!

It's incredible how fast you can become relatively close with another stranger. I only have a few months working with Cristobal, but I can seriously say that those moments with him have been unforgettable. From the time he made me clean the refrigerator to laughing and enjoying ourselves in his office. It has been a great pleasure and honor getting to know him and working for Cristobal. I wish nothing but success and a bright future for Chris. Best of luck in your new job my brother.

--Security Aponte.

*Continued on  
the next page!!*



Chris,  
Just want to let you know how I appreciated having you as a "Boss". I know I have not known you for too long, but in the time I have, I could not have asked for a better person to have to be my friend and boss...I know you are about to start a new chapter in your life but I cannot help but to be sad that I will not have my DJ at work. Knowing that you won't be around, who will now keep me entertained...lol good luck and best wishes.

Elizabeth C.

Dear Chris,  
I have not known you for too long but from the very first day I started work-study, you were welcoming and friendly. You are always in a positive great energy and you make everything simply comfortable in this department. I will miss you very much and only wish you the best in all you do.

-Brigette P



I started working in the Latin American Studies department in late July and I honestly thought it would be awkward because it was Chris, myself and a couple of other faculty -- not many people to socialize with. But on the second day of the job, me and Chris were already bochincando (joking around). Chris has made working in this department feel like a second home which is why I ended up almost running out of work-study hours by the first week of September. From his jokes to his idiosyncrasies such as turning the fan on and opening the windows in 40 degree weather, blasting Spanish music or always drinking orange juice with no pulp from a carton, I will always remember him. It saddens me that he is leaving this department because Chris is that big brother, bbf, colleague and faculty any department or school wishes to have, but I know he will be doing better, and I know I may have lost a colleague but I gained an amazing big brother who will always be there. Cristobalito, I wish you the best on this new chapter in your life and I know there will be another preppy work-study you will be teaching some Puerto Rican slang to, taking road trips to Jackson Hole or just sipping some orange juice while watching the Jersey Shore.

-Mari

## DEPARTMENTAL NEWS

Coming in February:

The Department of Latin American and Latina/o Studies will co-host the *Fourth Biennial Siglo XXI Conference* of the Inter-University Program for Latino Research (IUPLR). The conference, which will be held at the John Jay campus on February 23-25, 2012, will have as its theme "Forging the Future of Latinos in a Time of Crisis." More than three hundred scholars, faculty, and students from universities throughout the country will come together at John Jay to present cutting-edge research on Latino communities. The IUPLR is the leading consortium of university-based research centers dedicated to the advancement of the Latino intellectual presence in the United States. It works to expand the pool of Latino scholars and leaders, increase the availability of policy-relevant Latino-focused research, and strengthen the network of centers and their institutional capacity. Attendance in the sessions of the conference is free to all John Jay students.

La Voz, which means "the voice," signifies the voice of the new generation. The editorial board decided to name the Latin American and Latina/o Studies newsletter *La Voz* – the name of the department's former newsletter – in homage to the department's illustrious past. Originally called Puerto Rican Studies, the department has evolved over the years to continue its mission of studying and teaching the historical, political, social, and cultural contributions of Puerto Rico and its diaspora. Yet, keeping in time with changing demographics, the department now includes work and research on the influx of diverse Latino communities that is changing the face of New York City and the nation at large. *La Voz* is a bi-monthly newsletter that will include regular features such as a message from the Chair, faculty and student accomplishments, a segment on issues of importance to John Jay students, and an opinion column entitled "A Glance at Latin America" that discusses the state of current affairs and politics in Latin America. It will also keep readers apprised of upcoming department, campus-wide, and city-wide events that focus on Latina/o or Latin American issues and the arts. Each section is written and compiled by a team of talented, dedicated, and creative student editors. Feel free to contact the *La Voz* editorial team with any questions, suggestions, or ideas you may have.

# Editorial Committee

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