

7th Annual Scholarship Dinner



The Latino Resource Center hosted its annual scholarship dinner on Friday, August 28, 2009 at the Doubletree Hotel in Alsip, Ill. Over 200 attendees were present to recognize our talented students and acknowledge the many contributions of our honorees. Mr. Rey B. Gonzalez, vice president of Legislative and Community Affairs, ComEd was presented with the 2009 Corporate Citizen Award. Dr. Alejandra Alvarez, principal, Theodore Roosevelt High School was recognized for her commitment and service to our community with the 2009 Latino Alumni Award. Also recognized at this event were fourteen talented students who received scholarship support:

Dominique Calleros, Pre-Med; Blanca Carmona, Education; Javier Cortez, Pre-Med; Luz Cortez, Early Childhood Education; Diana Flores, Bilingual Education; Raul Flores, Political Science; Maria Gomez, Sociology; James Gutierrez, Engineering; Arturo Jurado, Mathematics, M.S.; Alma P. Navarro, Engineering; Jennifer Perez, Occupational Therapy, M.S.; Ashley Sanchez, Accounting; Gustavo Torres, Engineering; and Doreen Valdez, Nursing.

Congratulations to all of the honorees and scholarship recipients, and many thanks to our sponsors and contributors for their support.

CSU Alumna Dr. Alejandra Alvarez Shows Passion

Dr. Alejandra Alvarez received the 2009 Latino Alumni Award in company of friends, family and colleagues. She has distinguished herself through her tireless service to others and her community. With 32 years of experience dedicated to the needs of the children in Chicago, she has served as a teacher, counselor and principal for the Chicago Public Schools. She attributes much of her success in life to the support she has received from teachers, friends and family. Dr. Alvarez considers principalship her passion and enjoys working with the entire learning community to create opportunities for children.

Dr. Alvarez challenged everyone at the scholarship dinner to find his or her passion "because there is nothing better in life than enjoying what you do." She noted that her passion is to serve others and that her job as an educator and administrator has been very rewarding. Her inspirational words along with her many accomplishments truly make her an excellent role model. Thank you, Dr. Alvarez, for your commitment to all those you have touched!



Alejandra Alvarez, Principal
Theodore Roosevelt H.S.

The Energetic Department of Chemistry and Physics

One of the most unique and highly involved departments here at Chicago State University is the Department of Chemistry and Physics. A large number of faculty in the department are involved in ongoing research which is highly dependent on student involvement. Students participate significantly, are given hands-on experience in various research related fields and have the opportunity to have their research published. Students are responsible for obtaining and generating meaningful data for respective research projects. The Department of Chemistry and Physics is technologically well-equipped, in relation to the size of the University. The equipment is comparable to equipment found at larger institutions. Degrees offered include general chemistry, industrial chemistry, biochemistry and the secondary teaching option in chemistry. Degrees offered in physics include general physics, physics for bioscience application and the secondary teaching option in physics. The department has various organizations and clubs that outreach to students and are actively involved in organizing and attending conferences, as well as providing financial aid resources. Dr. Rivas, an organic chemistry professor, highlights the support and dedication his fellow colleagues display towards their students. He notes that many go above and beyond for their students, conducting extra study sessions that accommodate students' schedules. More information and event updates held by this department can be found at www.csu.edu.

Hispanic-Latino Heritage Month at a Glance



Dr. Wayne Watson, CSU President, kicks off the month with Joyce Owens, University Curator, and featured artists Judith Hernandez and Sergio Gomez.



Leticia Carrillo, Executive Director and Linda Simpson, Director of Events get some Salsa lessons from Dr. Sandra Westbrooks, CSU Provost.



Dr. Edmundo Garcia, Professor of Physics discusses his research on cosmic rays during the Showcase of Latinos in the Sciences



Motivational Speaker, Carlos Ojeda, Jr. talks about his life experience to the Next Generation of Latino Leaders



Josefina Lopez discusses why *Real Women Have Curves* during Eighth Annual Feria del Libro: Book Fair



Dr. Pancho McFarland leads a discussion on the Latino Identity in America

Soccer Growing within Cougar Country!

The Chicago State University Men's Soccer Club started in the fall of 2006 with three active soccer fanatics. Together they encouraged others to become members and form a competing team with the ultimate goal of starting a NCAA Division I soccer team at CSU. Though it began small, the Soccer Club developed a strong following consisting of a diverse group of students, faculty, and alumni.



At first the Men's Soccer Club held outdoor practices and scrimmage games against other clubs from different colleges and universities. Shortly after, the club joined various indoor soccer leagues around the Chicagoland area including leagues at Willy Roy's Soccer Dome and at Chicago Indoor Sports Dome. The Soccer Club has maintained a strong group of members and currently has the strongest following since its inception.

The club now has 25 members and is competing in the East Side Indoor Soccer Dome League on Wednesday nights for the winter season. The soccer dome is located on 119th Street and Avenue O on the East Side. For more information, call 773-995-2526. We hope you come out and enjoy some exciting soccer!

Sigma Lambda Gamma National Sorority, Inc. Starts Beta Delta Chapter at CSU

In the Fall of 2006, Sigma Lambda Gamma National Sorority, Inc. was launched as an interest group. This group came to be known as Entre Amigas. The following spring, this group of young women was recognized on campus as a registered student organization. In July of 2007, they were granted colony status by the national organization. After much hard work and dedication, on August 13, 2009 they were granted charter status and became the Beta Delta Chapter. Congratulations ladies for being the first Latina/o-based Greek organization to be recognized at Chicago State University!



Latino Students Shine in Minority Internship Program

The Latino Resource Center staff, through its relationship with Mr. Christopher Williams, director of the Minority Internship Program, were able to secure internship positions for three Latino students. When asked about their experience, this is what they had to say:

"My internship through the MIP program was a real hands-on experience. I got a taste of what a job in communications really entails. Thanks to the program, I am now working there while I finish my degree."

-Alma Campos, *Pilsen Neighbors Community Council*

"My experience at the U.S. Hispanic Leadership Institute has been great. Not only did I get a chance to work with kind, driven, and hard-working people but I got the chance to meet and work with one of the nation's greatest Latino leaders, Dr. Juan Andrade, Jr. While working there, I saw the passion and dedication it takes to teach and encourage young leaders."

-Ashley Sanchez, *United States Hispanic Leadership Institute*

"I would recommend this program to anyone who wants to make the most of their college experience. It prepared me for what I want to do after I graduate."

-Raul Flores, *Congressman Luis Gutierrez Office*

CHICAGO STATE UNIVERSITY

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The Latino Resource Center
welcomes Dr. Wayne Watson,
CSU President

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Dr. Felix Rivas Focuses on Alternative Energy

Dr. Felix Rivas is a professor in the Department of Chemistry and Physics at CSU. Dr. Rivas first arrived to this campus in the fall of 2006, spent his first semester as an assistant professor and since then he has been a full-time professor. He is a graduate of the University of Puerto Rico where he obtained his bachelor's in chemistry. Dr. Rivas received his Ph.D. from the State University of New York at Buffalo and completed a post-doctorate program at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Dr. Rivas was originally interested in medical school, but after participating in a summer research laboratory at Oak Bridge National Lab, he was steered towards a career in chemical research. Dr. Rivas is presently involved in two research projects that both involve his forte—organic chemical synthesis. This is the preparation of molecules that contain carbon. One project Dr. Rivas is working on involves the research of molecules with biological activity. This research aids in the synthesis of potentially new antibiotics to fight against bacterial strains which have grown resistant to present-day medications. The other project involves research on solar cell energy, which investigates alternative energy sources that may be renewable. The process starts by sealing synthesized organic compounds onto a glass petri dish. Light energy is provided and these organic compounds capture the light energy via electrons. The electrons are then harnessed for electricity usage. This process is very similar to that of solar panels. A piece of advice Dr. Rivas would like to share with his chemistry students and with others interested in the chemistry field is, "Practice problems. It is not enough to just understand something when you read it, but be able to write out and understand problems by yourself."

