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Outreach Efforts for Census 2000 Announced

by **Giovanna Negretti**

As we head toward the year 2000, one of the hottest issues within the Hispanic agenda is the upcoming census. The Gastón Institute is focusing on demographic trends in Massachusetts cities with the highest concentration of Latinos and planning outreach efforts to those communities in anticipation of the census.

According to the Census Bureau, the Hispanic community may be the

most difficult of communities to enumerate. The reasons include untraditional household arrangements, irregular housing, language difference, lack of understanding of the process, mistrust in the system, and population mobility. Some argue that the Census 2000 process will result in an undercount of the Latino population. In addition, certain methods of collecting data will present obstacles to an accurate count (e.g., census forms,

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From the Director

by **Andrés Torres**

Mauricio Gastón was a demanding perfectionist, insisting that one's work reflect the highest professional standards. He was his own severest taskmaster and critic. On the other hand, his family, friends, and colleagues knew him to be deeply sensitive and compassionate, a fighter for social justice. This twin legacy is nicely captured in his often-heard saying, —*¡Hay que hacerlo bien, caballero, hay que hacerlo bien!* Loosely translated into the activist vernacular of the time, his point was: "You gotta do the job right, man, you gotta do the job right." And that's what the Gastón

Institute has been committed to doing since its founding almost ten years ago.

We like to think of the Gastón Institute family in the broadest sense: the extended network of staff, advisory board, faculty, students, and supporters—both here on the UMass Boston campus and in the community—who contribute to the organization's mission. The institute depends on all of you to deliver its programs, activities, and products.

The Gastón Institute Report is our semi-annual update. Here we include announcements of new research grants, briefs on current research and policy

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Mauricio Gastón Institute for Latino Community Development and Public Policy

The Mauricio Gastón Institute for Latino Community Development and Public Policy was established at the University of Massachusetts Boston through the initiative of Latino community activists and academicians in response to a need for improved understanding of Latino experiences and living conditions in Massachusetts. The task of the institute is to inform policy makers about issues vital to the Commonwealth's growing Latino community and to provide this community with information and analysis necessary for effective participation in public policy development.

Mauricio Gastón

Mauricio Miguel Gastón, in whose memory the Gastón Institute is named, was a Latino community activist and urban planner who was on the faculty of the university's College of Public and Community Service from 1980 until his death in 1986. He was well known for his work on community development and housing issues in Boston, both as an organizer in the South End and Jamaica Plain, and as the author of a significant body of scholarship on urban transformation and displacement affecting Black and Latino communities.

The Gastón Institute Report

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Profile

Giovanna Negretti



Giovanna Negretti

by Leslie Bowen

"Theater and politics are my passion," says Giovanna Negretti, the Gastón Institute's new outreach coordinator. After transferring from the University of Puerto Rico, she graduated with a degree in performing arts from Emerson College, where she specialized in Shakespearean Theater. She sees no conflict between her two interests in politics and theater. "Theater is another way to communicate social messages," she says, citing her involvement over the years with Escena Latina. A recent play performed at UMass Boston, *Botánica*, explored issues of identity and culture among Latinos.

Coming to the institute from Senator Dianne Wilkerson's office where she worked for three years, she is keenly aware of the importance of policy making. Giovanna was the only Latina legislative aide at the senate and received calls from all over the state requesting assistance on matters of importance to the Latino community. "Most Latino constituents didn't

know about the political process, or if they did, they didn't use it. Calls about budget cuts affecting the community would come after it was too late to impact the process," she says.

In her position as outreach coordinator, she is responsible for coordinating the activities of the Latino Leadership Opportunity Program, which has been newly named the Latino Public Policy Institute (LPPI). She is hopeful her new position will provide the opportunity to educate a new generation about the political process and the importance of being astute and involved.

At IBA (Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción), a nonprofit social service agency and one of the key local Latino community organizations, she was director of arts and culture, an experience she says was "the best thing that happened to me." It was there that she developed a commitment to and understanding of the Latino community and the organizations serving it.

Accustomed to being the person out front and giving out information, she sees outreach as not just going *out* into the community, but finding ways to bring people *in*. A big part of her role at the institute, she says, will be finding ways to make ties to the community, to develop audiences for the annual speakers series which she coordinates, and to promote other events, including a statewide Latino policy conference in the spring of 2000. △

Leslie Bowen is Publications Manager at the Gastón Institute and editor of the Gastón Institute Report.

Mas Salud Project Seeks Quality Health Care for Latinos

by Miriam Chernoff

A new initiative of the Gastón Institute seeks to address the pressing issue of providing quality health care to Latinos. Carole Upshur, a key member of the project team, reports that nearly one-quarter of Latinos in Massachusetts do not have health insurance. In the paper she co-authored with members of the University of Massachusetts Cultural Competence Technical Assistance Team, "Significant Health Issues Among Massachusetts' Racial and Ethnic Minorities," she presents statistics that show many disparities in health care between Latinos and other groups in Massachusetts.

Older Latinos for example, have twice the prevalence of undetected diabetes compared with Whites. Fewer Latinos than Whites receive prenatal health care. More Latina women have low-birth-weight babies and infant mortality is higher compared with White Americans (These rates are highest for African-American women). Latinos are also less likely to get screening for cervical and breast cancer and for high cholesterol and high blood pressure.

Age-adjusted causes of death rates (per 100,000) show that Latinos are especially hard-hit by heart disease (76.8), AIDS/HIV (42.5), alcohol and substance abuse (24.8), diabetes (15.7) and stroke (14.6). Table 1 compares the selected age-adjusted causes of death among various ethnic groups and Latinos for various health issues.

These statistics raise a number of questions. Are health care programs

servicing Latinos adequately? How do services for Latinos compare with those for other minority groups? How can they be improved? The Gastón Institute was one of four groups selected by the U.S. Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) to investigate these issues in collaboration with the Massachusetts Division of Medical Assistance (DMA).

The advisory board for the project consists of professionals who are involved in providing and administering health care in the Latino community (see sidebar on page 7). By establishing a model for collaborative and culturally sensitive research, the project should help improve the health status of Latinos.

The Mas Salud project will document how Latinos insured by MassHealth (Medicaid) programs in Massachusetts are being served, and provide information that can be used in setting future goals for health-care services.

MassHealth provides health insurance coverage for low-income families and is administered by the DMA. Estimates suggest that MassHealth may insure as many as 200,000 Latinos (20% of the annual Medicaid enrollment of nearly one million). This is almost one-half of all Latinos projected to be living in the state by the year 2000, according to population estimates in a recent Gastón Institute report, (*Latinos in Massachusetts: An Update*, Andrés Torres and Lisa Chavez, 1998). About three-quarters of Latina women receive publicly funded prenatal care compared with just one-fifth of Whites and just over one-half of African Americans.

The study has two phases: quantitative and qualitative. During the first year, health-care indicators for Latinos will be compared with those for other ethnic groups served by MassHealth. During the second year, interviews will be con-

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Comparison among Latinos, Whites, Blacks, and Asians based on Selected Age-Adjusted Mortality Rates for Massachusetts: 1992–1994 per 100,000

Health Issue	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian
Heart Disease	122.7	145.7	76.8	75.9
Breast Cancer	23.2	24.6	11.6	10.3
Diabetes	10.4	25.0	15.7	7.4
AIDS/HIV	10.5	49.6	42.5	1.5
Alcohol & Substance Abuse	16.3	19.8	24.8	5.7
Motor Vehicle Related	8.3	5.1	9.8	6.3

SOURCE: Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

Research Activities

Latino Presence Growing in Boston Neighborhoods

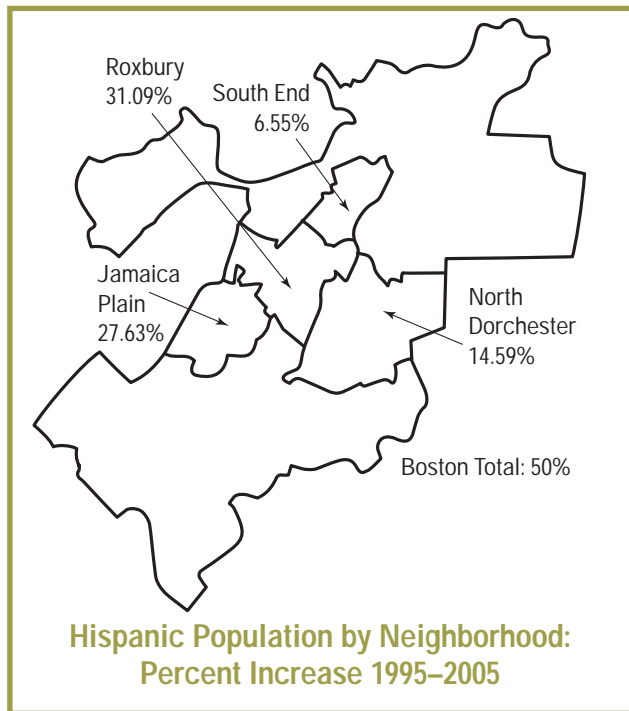
by Claudia Green

The Hispanic population in Boston is expected to increase by 50% by the year 2005—more than any other racial or ethnic group in the city—according to new projections. The study was completed by the Massachusetts Institute for Social and Economic Research (MISER) for the Center for Community Economic Development (CCED). The findings are released in a recent report, *Neighborhood Population Changes in Boston, 1995-2005*. As the overall population of Boston grows by just 3% between 1995 and 2005, Hispanics will eventually make up 19% of the total population. At the neighborhood level, the Hispanic population will increase in each of the neighborhoods studied, with the greatest increases in Jamaica Plain and Roxbury, 27.6% and 31.1%, respectively.

The CCED report includes four planning districts in Boston: North Dorchester, Roxbury, Jamaica Plain, and the South End, which includes Chinatown. Data on the city of Boston overall are also presented, for comparison purposes. The neighborhoods included,

which roughly correspond to the target neighborhoods of the CCED, are mostly low-income communities of color. The report provides city and neighborhood planners, organizers, human service providers, and others, with estimates and projections to better understand demographic changes in their communities, and to plan for culturally and linguistically appropriate support systems.

The data in the report are based on estimates of the 1995 population, and project what the neighborhoods will look like in the year 2005. They are calculated in 5-year age breakdowns, by race and ethnicity. The report describes how the Hispanic population citywide is expected to change, how Latino growth compares to changes among Whites, Blacks, and Asian-Americans, in which neighborhoods the



Latino population is expected to change the most, and whether the numbers of children, adults and, elderly will decrease, increase, or remain the same.

Citywide Trends

By 2005, Boston is projected to be 44.9% non-Hispanic White (White), 27.1% non-Hispanic Black (Black), 19% Hispanic, and 9% Asian-American/American

The CCED is a university-community collaboration comprising the Mauricio Gastón Institute for Latino Community Development and Public Policy, the Institute for Asian American Studies, the William Monroe Trotter Institute for the Study of Black Culture, the College of Public

and Community Service, and more than 25 community-based organizations in Boston, including community development corporations, employment and training agencies, multi-service organizations, and advocacy groups. The center is principally funded by the U.S. Department of Hous-

ing and Urban Development (HUD) Office of University Partnerships. As part of its mission, CCED strives to make university resources available to communities, and to enable the university to work in partnership with communities to address community development issues. △

Indian. This represents a projected 15% decrease in the White population, a 10% increase in the Black population, a 35% increase in the Asian-American/American Indian population, and a 50% increase in the Hispanic population.

Citywide, the upward trend among Hispanics in the 10-19 age cohort is consistent with changes in that population among Asian-Americans, but significantly larger than that of both Blacks and Whites. Among Hispanics, this age group will increase by approximately 90%. The Asian-American/American Indian population should also increase in this age group, including a more than 100% increase in the 15-19 age group. The number of Blacks between the ages of 10 and 19 will increase by approximately 40%; Whites will show a 5.4% increase in this age cohort.

Trends By Neighborhood

In North Dorchester, the Hispanic population will increase by approximately 15%, from 12,691 to 14,543, across most age groups. Hispanics should constitute approximately 16% of the total population of the neighborhood by 2005. At the same time, the percentage of Whites in North Dorchester, as measured against total neighborhood population, is expected to decline by over 20%, to become approximately 20% of the population of that neighborhood by 2005, compared with over 27% in 1995. The Asian-American/American Indian population in this neighborhood should increase by 128% to become over 17% of the neighborhood's population. While the Black population will increase by over 7%, its percentage of the total population will decrease slightly from 48.4% to 47%.

Overall, the population of the neighborhood will be getting slightly younger.

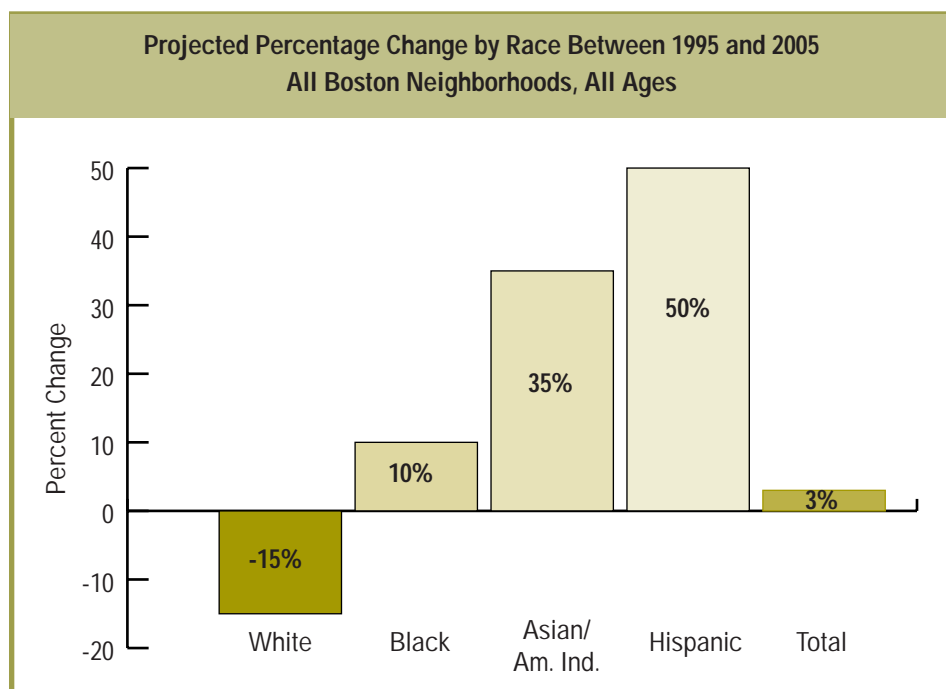
The overall population of Roxbury is projected to increase by approximately 6 percent between 1995 and 2005, driven mainly by a more than 30% increase in the Hispanic population. The Hispanic population of Roxbury is expected to grow from 13,505 in 1995, to 17,704 in 2005, to account for approximately 28% of the total population of that neighborhood by 2005. The number of Hispanics in Roxbury should increase in every age category, with the most dramatic increases in the 10-19 and 40-49 age categories (50% and 60%, respectively). The White population is estimated to decrease by 44% to make up approximately 6% of the population of the neighborhood by 2005. The Asian-American/American Indian population should also decrease to become 2.7% of the total Roxbury population. The proportion of Blacks is expected to remain essentially the same at approximately 63%.

In Jamaica Plain, the largest growth is expected to come from the Hispanic pop-

ulation, which should increase by close to 30% to constitute over 41% of the neighborhood's population by 2005, up from 32% in 1995. In actual numbers, Hispanics are estimated to increase from 9,238 to 11,790. Among the Hispanic population, those between the ages of 10-19 should show the largest increase in numbers, from 1,485 to 2,484, or 67 percent. Overall, the population of Jamaica Plain is expected to decrease by approximately 2 percent between 1995 and 2005. The largest decrease is projected to occur among Whites in the 25-39 age group, both proportionally and in absolute numbers. Overall, the White population is expected to decrease by over 20% to constitute approximately 42% of the population of Jamaica Plain in 2005. The Asian-American/American Indian population should also decrease, from 3.4% to 2.4% of the total population. The population of Blacks is expected to increase by over 10% to become 13.3% of the population.

The Hispanic population of the

continued on page 6 →



LATINO PRESENCE continued from page 5

South End (including Chinatown) is projected to increase modestly, by approximately 7% by 2005, from 3,906 to 4,162. While Hispanics are expected to increase in almost all age categories, the South End is the only neighborhood studied in which Hispanics will show a drop in the 0-4 age cohort. This indicates that birth rates among Hispanics in that neighborhood are expected to slow by 56%, from 418 in 1995 to 185 in 2005.

The overall population of the South End is projected to decrease by approximately 14% between 1995 and 2005. The largest decrease will be among the White and Black populations, with decreases of 32% and 20%, respectively. The Asian-American/American Indian population is expected to increase by 7%. The racial breakdown of the neighborhood in 2005 is expected to be approximately 32% White, 19% Black, 33% Asian-American/American Indian, and 16% Hispanic. The sharpest decreases are projected to be in the 25-34 age group, mostly due to declines in these age groups for Whites and Blacks. There will be a minimal increase among this age group for Asian-Americans/American Indians, while the Hispanic population in this age group will decrease only slightly.

A Final Note On Methodology

In publishing this report, the CCED notes that users should bear in mind that the data are estimates and projections based on characteristics—migration, fertility, mortality, and other factors—prevailing during the first half of the 1990s. Social, health, political, and economic considerations

may affect these estimates in unpredictable ways. The report does not provide analysis or discussion of the causes or effects of the trends documented. The CCED invites and encourages dialogue on this issue and hopes to extend its research to other neighborhoods and to deeper analysis in the future. △

Claudia Green is project director of the CCED.

To order the report cited in this article, Neighborhood Population Changes in Boston, 1995-2005, please send a check for \$3.00 to the CCED, c/o the Gastón Institute, UMass Boston, 100 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, MA, 02125.

You may also order by telephone, (617) 287-5796, or fax, (617) 287-5788, Attn: Claudia Green.



OUTREACH EFFORTS continued from page 1

although distributed by bilingual enumerators, will be in English, unless a Spanish version is requested in writing from the Census Bureau).

The Gastón Institute supports an aggressive effort to inform Hispanics about the process as well as the critical economic and political implications of the census. The institute hopes to be an intrinsic part of that effort. Together with other nonprofit groups, churches, and community-based organizations, the Gastón Institute has agreed to work in partnership with the Census Bureau to do outreach to the Hispanic community on the importance of participating in Census 2000.

As a part of this effort, the institute will host a Census Data Workshop; spread the word about census jobs; display Census 2000 posters and other promotional material, including Census 2000 messages in the Gastón Institute newsletter, web site, and other communications; identify areas where languages other than English are predominant; and invite census speakers and workshop leaders to upcoming conferences and meetings.

As part of the institute's strategy to address census-related issues, students participating in the Latino Public Policy Institute (LPPI), a leadership development program offered at the Gastón Institute, will focus their research projects on Census 2000, concentrating on its potential impact on the Hispanic community in Massachusetts. △

Giovanna Negretti is outreach coordinator at the Gastón Institute.

MAS SALUD continued from page 3

ducted with health providers, Latino health consumers, and administrators of community-based organizations in the communities served by MassHealth.

Phase I-Quantitative Study

Each year, the DMA collects health-care quality indicators known as HEDIS (health plan employer data and information set). HEDIS reflects two aspects of quality: *access* to medical care and *use* of medical care. For example, we know that pregnant women should see a doctor during the first three months of pregnancy. We can thus count the number of pregnant women enrolled in MassHealth who actually do so. We also know that women should have annual screening for cervical cancer. HEDIS counts the number of adult women enrollees who have such procedures during the reporting year. A third example is that children should have certain immunizations at certain ages. HEDIS summarizes the number of children enrolled in MassHealth who have met these standards. HEDIS also measures care for certain chronic diseases like diabetes.

Random samples of MassHealth enrollees will be used to collect some of the data because it is not feasible to review the medical records for all enrollees. Data that can be tallied directly from the claims database will provide information on all eligible enrollees.

HEDIS measures provide much information but not everything needed to evaluate health services. They do not tell us whether the clients were well

treated, for example, or served in a timely and dignified fashion. They do not tell us whether the client was told about the need for a certain procedure or standard of care, or what quality of service the client received. HEDIS measures also do not tell us the reasons for varying access or use of health services. Customer satisfaction surveys conducted by the DMA will provide some of the answers to these questions. But even these surveys will not give a complete picture of the quality of health care for Massachusetts Latinos.

Phase II-Qualitative Study

The second phase of Mas Salud will use qualitative methods, such as open-ended interviews and focus groups, to elicit the stories which patients tell about their experiences in seeking quality medical care. This will allow us to understand how personal histories—culture, age, sex, ethnicity, language, and immigrant experiences—influence the use of health-care services in Massachusetts. Providers will be asked about the particular challenges they face in serving Latinos.

These two types of information—quantitative and qualitative—should serve to improve understanding of how MassHealth is serving Latinos and offer suggestions for improving health-care services to Latinos. △

Miriam Chernoff is a statistician working at the Gastón Institute on the Mas Salud Project.

Mas Salud Advisory Board

Dr. Hortensia Amaro; Ph.D., Professor, Boston University School of Public Health.

Dr. José Azocar, M.D. and D.Sc., Founder, Hispanic Association for Preventative Medicine.

Dr. Alba Cruz, M.P.H., Director, Planning and Policy at The Center for Community Health Education, Research, and Service, Northeastern University.

Dr. Roxana Llerena-Quinn, Ph.D., Psychologist, Children's Hospital, and Clinical Instructor, Harvard Medical School.

Dr. Edith Mas, M.S.W., Director, Area Health Education Center for the Merrimack Valley.

Dr. Rodolfo Vega, Ph.D., Director, Institutional Services and Regional Initiatives, Latino Health Institute (LHI).

This article is based in part on the proposal submitted to HCFA that was prepared by members of the project team: Andrés Torres, director of the Gastón Institute; Dharma Cortés and Gonzalo Bacigalupe, research fellows at the Gastón Institute; and Carole Upshur, senior project consultant and director of the doctoral program in public policy.

Directory of Latino Artists Planned

by Myriam Ortiz

The Mauricio Gastón Institute is developing a cultural initiative that seeks to identify Latino artists in the Boston area. The main goal of the project is to publish a Latino art directory that will compile information about Latino artists in the Boston area, including the various media they use.

"The Latino artist is rather isolated by the lack of resources and support of the community," notes the Colombian sculptor Ulises Rodríguez, who this past December inaugurated the Crystal Art Gallery with two other artists.

The exposition centers, art galleries, and institutions dedicated to showing and promoting art will be surveyed. The project has been designed to identify the Latino artists who have used these facilities for exhibits or presentations. The institute hopes the directory will pro-

mote the recognition of a growing and important art community.

"This kind of project is very positive for Latino artists," Ulises says. "If this publication is distributed to government agencies or to other entities that can support us, it will not only make us known, but it will also increase the contact between these agencies and new Latino artists." Ulises exhibits his art in June 1999 at UMass Boston's Harbor Gallery.

According to Ulises, a sculptor since 1984, Latino art is an expression of the Latino community that is also manifested in the general artistic environment. Although Ulises's recent work is focused on abstract sculpture, his intention, like that of many other Latino artists in the Boston area, is to have his work recognized as being part of the Latino community.

Demographic changes have increased the importance of highlighting the artist population among Latinos in the Boston area. According to a recent report published by the Gastón Institute, the number of Latinos in Boston grew from 61,923 in 1990 to 71,162 in 1995. Representing a 14.8% increase, these findings indicate that Boston is becoming

increasingly Latino in its population and culture.

Art can figure prominently as one of the elements in the development of a community identity. It can serve as both a refuge for that identity and a way for Latino culture to find expression in the larger society. "Let us not forget that the artist plays a central role in our community's view of itself. The artist can often sum up our complexities," says Luis Aponte Parés, associate professor of Community Planning and director of the Latino Studies Program, who is serving as an advisor to the project along with Efraín Barradas, professor of Modern Languages and director of the Hispanic Studies Department.

Taking this into account, the institute believes it is important to highlight Latino art in all its facets as an element of identity within the community and to promote the immersion of Latino art into the mainstream. The institute hopes to explore as many types of artistic expression as possible, including theater, plastic arts, music, and others.

An initiative of the Mauricio Gastón Institute, this project is designed to bring attention to a segment of the Latino community that enriches our cultural diversity. If you have any information that may contribute to the development of our project, please call Myriam Ortiz at 287-5786. △

Myriam Ortiz is a research assistant at the Gastón Institute.



Colombian sculptor, Ulises Rodríguez, exhibits his work in June 1999 at the Harbor Gallery of the University of Massachusetts Boston.

F_{ocus}

The Poetry of Martín Espada Featured at Latino Writers Workshop



Puerto Rican poet Martín Espada is a featured writer in the annual Joiner Center Writers Workshop, which includes a weekend program of events and readings by Hispanic writers. This year's program is co-sponsored by the Gastón Institute. For more information, contact Jaime Rodriguez, (617) 287-5850.

An award-winning author and professor at UMass Amherst, Espada has published four books of poetry, including most recently *Imagine the Angels of Bread*. The following poem is from the book, *Rebellion is the Circle of a Lover's Hands* (*Rebelión es el giro de inanos del amante*), winner of the PEN/Revson Award and the Paterson Poetry Prize.

The King of Books

for Camilo Pérez-Bustillo

The books traveled with Camilo
everywhere, like wrinkled duendes
whispering advice.
The fortuneteller clawed his palm
and warned him
about El Salvador,
where the guards
search for books at the border,
plucking at pages
like the pockets of a bearded subversive.

The books were bandits,
bootlegging illicit words
like Che and insurrection.
For the books,
a rifle jabbed in his spine;
for the books,
an elbow pressed against the chin;
for the books,
electrical wires slowly waving,
branches of cruel sparks.

And the captain in camouflage
tried to instruct him
with a wall-hard smack
and rational fascist philosophy;
the guards worked to convince him,
propping him on the cot
with the same interrogation repeated
till morning slipped into the cell
and spread across the floor unnoticed;
the Marines fought to persuade him
by stern quiet in the jeep,
dropping him marooned
without money or books
at the border.

He was not persuaded.
In his apartment books breed,
an infestation of books,
piling, spilling,
a horde of printed words like grasshoppers
blackening the nightmares
of treasury police and army captains
in El Salvador,
a plague commanded
by Camilo,
the King of Books.

FROM THE DIRECTOR continued from page 1

analysis studies, highlights of new research publications and resources. Also we describe our involvement in various projects: our leadership development program, the popular Gastón Speakers Series, and support for activities on and off campus. We are encouraged by the positive feedback received from readers of the last *Gastón Institute Report*. We would like to hear from still more of you; so please send us your opinions and ideas for improvement.

Approaching the first decade of existence inevitably prompts us toward reflection and self-assessment. What have been our accomplishments? Our shortcomings? Might we have done things differently? These questions serve

as a prelude to the challenge of imagining the future we should construct as a new century beckons. Should we revise our mission statement (see page 2)? What are the key changes in the Massachusetts Latino condition during the 1990s, and do they warrant a new direction for the institute? Given our need to service multiple constituencies—UMass students, faculty, and community, the Latino community in the Commonwealth, and the general public—how do we effectively set priorities? Over the coming year, the institute will undertake a strategic planning process in which these questions will be posed. We welcome the views of all members of the Gastón family, and will establish mechanisms for your participation.

In the meantime, plans are underway for a tenth anniversary celebration. We are organizing, with the help of many others, a statewide Latino policy conference. If we are successful in these endeavors, we shall be off to a good start as the new millennium begins. Both of these activities—to take place during the year 2000—will contribute to the advancement of the Latino community in Massachusetts. Naturally, in these and other efforts we will be guided by Mauricio's precept: —*¡Hay que hacerlo bien, caballero, hay que hacerlo bien!* △

For information on the Statewide Latino Policy Conference scheduled for March 2000, please contact Giovanna Negretti at (617) 287-5793.

Educational Qualitative Research in Latin America: The Struggle for a New Paradigm

Edited by Gary L. Anderson and Martha Montero-Sieburth; Garland Publishing, Inc., 1998, 246 pages, \$72.00.

Martha Montero-Sieburth, a professor in the Department of Education at UMass Boston, has co-edited a volume of articles presenting educational research from Latin America. *Educational Qualitative Research in Latin America: The Struggle for a New Paradigm* is the first book to provide North American researchers with a vision of qualitative research that emanates from countries south of the U.S.-Mexican border. The

book fills a need for ethnographic and qualitative research in English that increases awareness among North American scholars of the remarkable qualitative research conducted over the last two decades in Latin America.

The book reflects the research paradigm that is most relevant to the Latin American social reality, focusing on marginalized groups, popular knowledge, process-oriented approaches, and research at the classroom level. Qualitative research in Latin America has flowed from the work of cultural anthropologists and a long tradition of participatory research inspired by Paulo Freire. It is driven by respect for popular knowledge as a basis for promoting educational and social change.

Included in the book are chapters on "Ethnography and the Commitment to Public Schooling"; "Appropriating Ethnography for Research in Education"; "An Overview of Ethnographic Research in Mexico"; "The Political Resocialization of Women in a Brazilian Literacy Program"; "The Role of Women in the Democratization of Schools and Families in Argentina"; "Anomie and Education"; "Teachers as Learners"; "Participatory Action Research in Teacher Education"; and "The Development of a Longitudinal Model for Teacher Training."

The book includes a resource list of Latin American Research Centers specializing in Education. △

Latinos Elected to Office in Record Numbers as Massachusetts Follows National Trend

by **Mary Jo Marion**

In the 1998 November elections, Massachusetts voters elected three Latinos to the state legislature. The state has elected only one other Latino representative, Nelson Merced, who was voted into office in the late 1980s. The newly elected representatives, Cheryl Rivera (10th Hampden), Jarret Barrios (28th Middlesex), and José Santiago (16th Essex), were part of a national wave of Latino candidates winning local and state elections. According to the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO), which represents more than 5,400 Latino office holders, Latinos now hold seats in 15 state senates and 25 state houses or assemblies.

The increase in the number of elected Latino officials occurred in states with small Latino populations as well as those with large Latino constituencies. The biggest gains were in California, where Cruz Bustamante, a democrat, was elected lieutenant governor, becoming the first Latino to hold statewide office in more than a century. The California assembly increased its Latino representatives from 14 to 17 and state senators from four to seven. States with smaller Latino populations, including Michigan and Wisconsin, elected their first state legislators of Hispanic origin.

Massachusetts followed this pattern of electing Latinos in districts both heavily and thinly populated by Latinos. Representative Rivera's district includes Springfield where Latinos

make up some 20% of the population and Representative Santiago's district includes Lawrence where Latinos are 48% of the population. In contrast, Representative Barrio's district is approximately 5% Latino.

The increase in the number of Latinos elected to office is due in part to an increase in the Latino population, currently estimated to be 11% of the national population. In addition, it seems Latinos were motivated to vote by the anti-immigrant, anti-Latino sentiment that has been rampant in certain political circles over the last few years. Many analysts feel that this has boomeranged and helped to build a sustained Latino electoral presence. This is evidenced by the fact that, according to NALEO, California experienced the largest increase in elected Latino officials as well as the largest increase in registered Latino voters. This came on the heels of such anti-Latino policies as Proposition 187 and major cutbacks to bilingual education.

Nationally, Latinos were a key voting block in important elections and they voted for candidates on the basis of their positions on issues rather than along party lines. For example, in New York, Charles E. Schumer (D) captured 80% of the Latino vote in his victory over Alfonse D'Amato (R), while in Texas, George Bush Jr. (R) received almost 50% of the Latino vote.

In Massachusetts, the newly elected Latino members have formed a Latino caucus to examine issues of particular

concern in the commonwealth. According to Representative Barrio's office, bilingual education is a priority for the caucus this legislative year. In addition, representatives are working individually on important initiatives. For example, Jarret Barrios has filed a bill requiring a minimal level of interpreter services at area hospitals for non-English speakers in need of acute health services who are unable to obtain health services or who are badly served as a result of language barriers.

Latinos are following the path set by many groups, such as the Irish, African Americans, and Italians, who gained political clout through the ballot box. It will be important to monitor whether in the case of Latinos increased representation results in improved living conditions. Much of this will depend on the skills of elected officials such as Barrios, Rivera, and Santiago.

Mary Jo Marion is associate director of the Gastón Institute.



Speakers Series

Lecture by Carola Suárez-Orozco Focuses on Experiences of Immigrant Children

Fall 1998 Speakers Series

by Giovanna Negretti

"Most Americans think that we don't exist," was the disturbing response of a 12-year-old Mexican boy to a sentence-completion exercise, part of a study funded by the National Science Foundation, the W.T. Grant Foundation, and the Spencer Foundation. Carola Suárez-Orozco, Ph.D., is the co-principal investigator of this five-year longitudinal study of immigrant adolescent adaptation to schools and society. Co-director of Harvard Immigration Projects at Harvard University's Graduate School of Education, she presented a lecture on *Conceptual Considerations in the Study of Immigrant Children* last November as part of the Gastón Institute's Fall 1998 Speakers Series.

"Some issues of immigration are common to all individuals undergoing

that process and others are very specific to people from different points of origin," Dr. Suárez-Orozco explained. The study is designed to document incoming resources and attitudes of recent immigrant children from different regions; determine what experiences are common to most immigrant children; learn what may be more specific for individuals from particular points of origin; and document how changes in attitudes occur over time.

Forty-two schools and more than four hundred children from Central America, China, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, and Mexico are participating in the study. Mexican and Central American students from school sites in California are included in the study along with Dominican, Haitian, and Chinese immigrant children from schools in the Boston area.

The study is in its second year, so many of the findings are still pending. During her lecture, Dr. Suárez-Orozco discussed some disturbing counter-intuitive results based on several cross-sectional studies, including the finding that the longer immigrants are here, the worse they do. Dr. Suárez-Orozco was quick to point out that these findings bring up almost more questions than they answer. She also maintains that there is a critical need to better understand the circumstances of immigrant children.

In answer to an audience member's comment, Dr. Suárez-Orozco responded: "My intention is to pathologize the circumstances immigrant children contend with—not the children themselves." She added, "Immigration is a difficult process. Immigrants have a lot of strength and resilience. As a society we should embrace them." △

Giovanna Negretti is outreach coordinator at the Gastón Institute.

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