

“The Ecuadorian Cultural Ambassadors”

2003, The Ohio State University

FRIDAY MAY 2

Closing Reception

The university community will come together to celebrate the closure of our Ecuadorian visitors with great music by Los Bocheritos and by Sumakta.

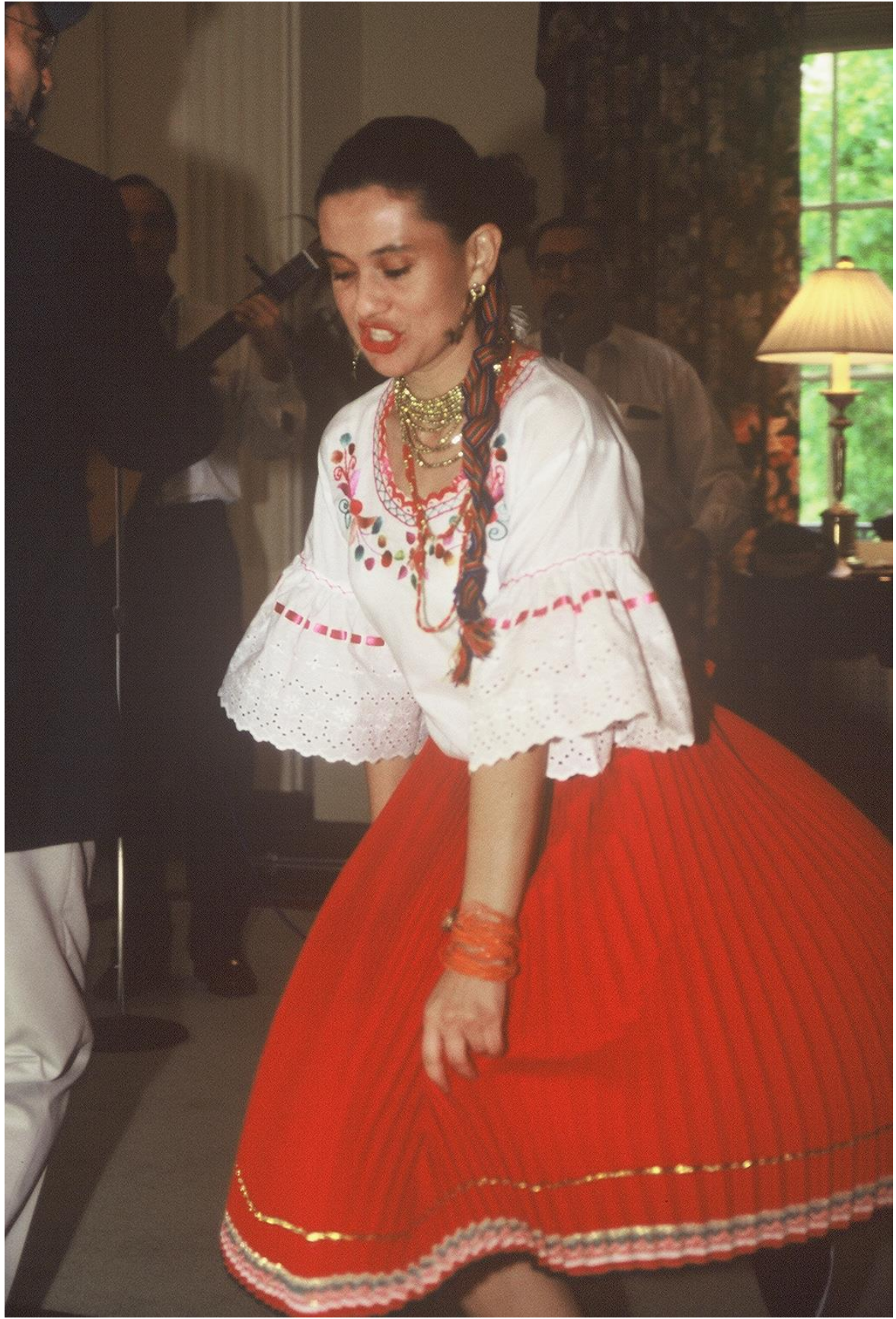
Delicious Food will be provided.

The Faculty Club
181 South Oval Drive
4:00-6:00 p.m.

THE ECUADORIAN CULTURAL AMBASSADORS



Featuring:
Los Bocheritos
and Sumakta





¿Qué Pasa, OSU?

A Magazine About the Latino Community of The Ohio State University · Volume X Number 2 · Winter 2003

From the Middle of the World...



Jubilee Year
Hispanic Student Services
Celebrates Twenty-fifth
Anniversary

¡Bienvenidos! Welcome!
Latino Faculty & Staff
Juan D. Alfonzo
Yolanda Zepeda
Samuel Echevarría
Artemio Ramirez, Jr.

Student Profile
Christopher Alvarez
Breckenridge

Changes in *Qué Pasa*
Updates from Victor Mora

Student Food Review
Casa Fiesta Restaurant
by Erica & Ramon

Tony Mendoza's
World View

To the Middle of Ohio Ecuadorian Cultural Ambassadors

Changes in Qué Pasa

by Victor Mora



Nine years ago, the magazine *¿Qué Pasa, OSU? (Qué Pasa)* was born as result of a collaborative effort between the University-wide Council of Hispanic Organizations (UCHO) and the Hispanic Oversight Committee (HOC). The creation (and funding) of this publication was closely tied to the goals of the Hispanic Action Plan (HAP) to address

recruitment, retention and enrichment needs of Hispanics at Ohio State.

For nine years *Qué Pasa* has been fulfilling its purpose of providing the Hispanic/Latino community at Ohio State with a mechanism to express its voice and to communicate with one another about issues of relevance and common interest. *Qué Pasa* has also been serving as a mechanism of communication between OSU Latinos and external communities, particularly with prospective students and their families.

Qué Pasa has maintained a clear focus on its purpose and has become a useful resource for the Latino community. According to the most recent Hispanic/Latino Students Needs Assessment Survey (conducted in 2002), *Qué Pasa* is a main source of information for students at Ohio State. *Qué Pasa* is a valuable tool for retention and cultural enrichment of Latino students in that it provides useful information about different university services available.

Students who become effectively connected to the university community and learn how to effectively use the resources have a better shot at success than those who do not.

Qué Pasa is also valuable in the recruitment of Hispanic/Latino students. The Summer issue of the magazine is designed specifically for this purpose. It has been used by the Offices of Minority Affairs and Undergraduate Admissions & First Year Experience and is sent to prospective students and their parents throughout the US and abroad.

In order to keep up with the increasing needs for timely and more comprehensive information, *Qué Pasa* also developed a website. Just like the paper version, the website has evolved from a modest and simple format to a more sophisticated and comprehensive medium. The web page has links

with a variety of sites and sources, which cover a wealth of topics relevant to Hispanics. Every issue of the magazine has been expected to be available on the web site.

This successful growth of *Qué Pasa* has caused many challenges over the years.

While all these improvements have been taking place, *Qué Pasa* has been operating with unchanged resources, a graduate student who holds a 50% FTE appointment (20 hours per week) and an undergraduate student who works 10 hours per week. The responsibilities of the graduate student have expanded from collecting news of interest to the OSU Hispanic/Latino community, writing editorials and articles, editing copy, designing layout, and publishing the magazine to maintaining and further developing the web page.

The assistant editor helps the editor with interviews, photographs, and editing articles.

The current workload of *Qué Pasa* has increased to the point that it is beyond what one GA and one undergraduate student are able to handle. *Qué Pasa* has been unable to retain graduate students for this reason. *Qué Pasa* needs one GA to work on content and on building relationships with the Latino community, particularly with Hispanic student organizations. A second GA is needed to do the design and layout of the publication as well as the website maintenance and enhancement. Members of *Qué Pasa's* Editorial Board have developed a proposal to fund an additional GA position. Funding this new GA position will keep a successful operation fulfilling its purpose. As already indicated, the Hispanic Needs Assessment survey clearly indicates that *Qué Pasa* is a valuable source of information for Hispanic students.

Presently, *Qué Pasa* does not have a GA and is contracting the services of *Nuestro Ohio* newspaper to produce the Winter, Spring, and Summer 2003 issues and to provide website maintenance. *Nuestro Ohio's* publisher, Ezra Escudero, is a former editor of *Qué Pasa* and has agreed to step in while we go through this transition.

We hope these changes will address the growing needs of our publication, both via print and internet, and will permit us to continue to maintain the high standards the magazine has provided over the years.

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¿Qué Pasa, OSU?

Volume X Number 2
Winter 2003

Esquina del editor

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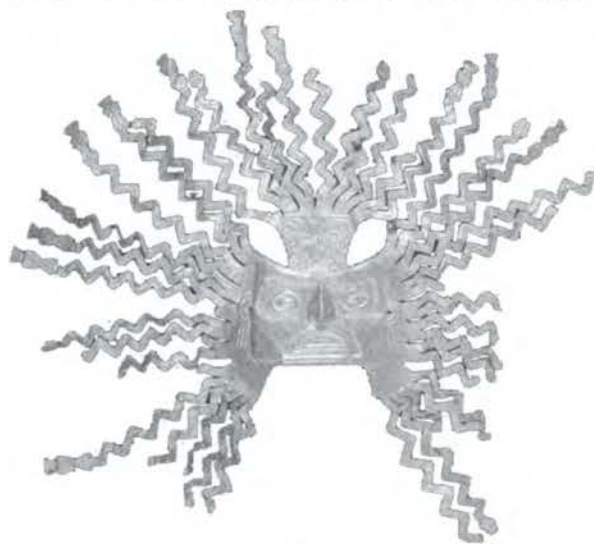
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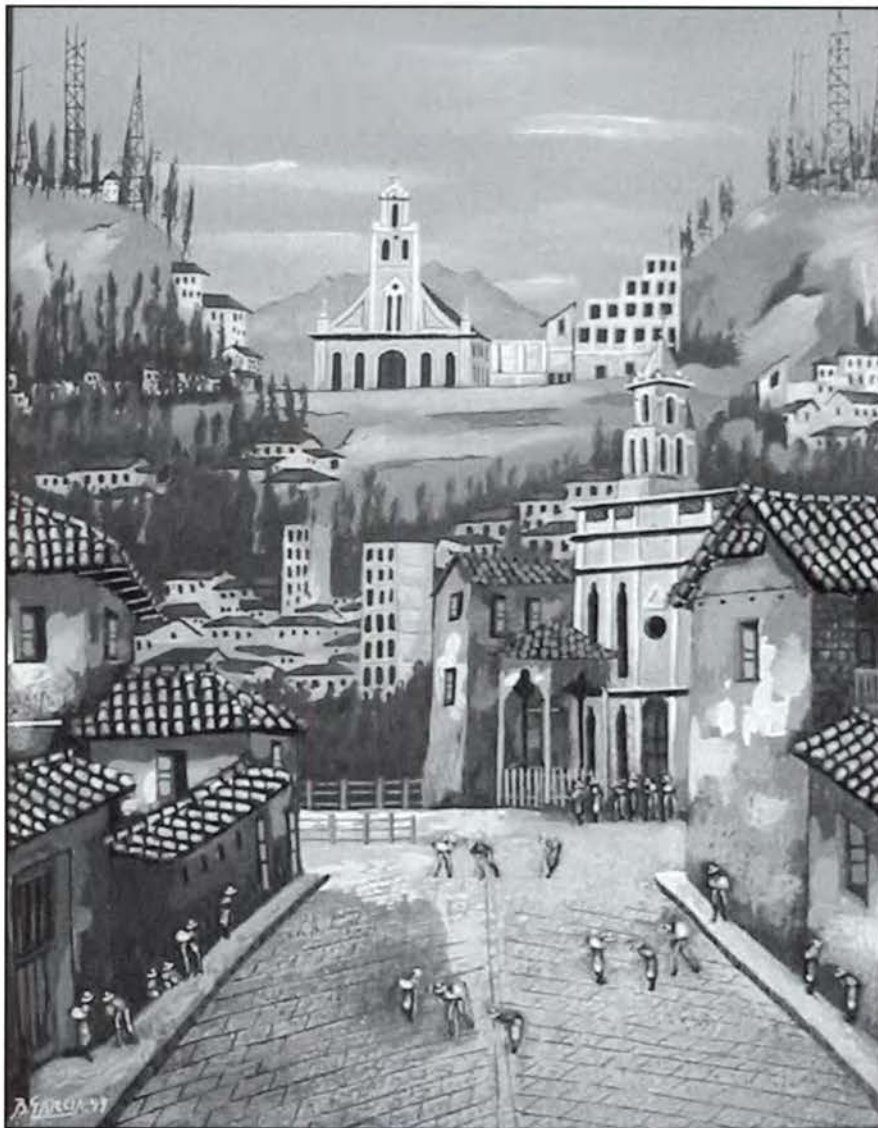
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Editorial Team (left to right): Victor Mora, Ezra Escudero, Yvonne Olivares, Nicole DeGreg, Chavi Mohan, Raquel Raices, Abelardo Garza-Delgado, (not pictured Prof. Ignacio Corona, Prof. Jose Cabral).

From the Middle of the World To the Middle of Ohio



Ecuadorian Cultural Ambassadors



Events

A vision comes to a person in many different ways. To Victor Mora, Associate Director in the Office of Undergraduate Admissions and First Year Experience at Ohio State, it came while on vacation in his country of origin, Ecuador. As Mora was paying a visit to the family of fellow Ecuadorian and OSU graduate student, Carolina Reyes, he had the opportunity to enjoy the performance of “Los Bocheritos.”

Mora was impressed by the group and almost immediately envisioned a program that would include them and perhaps more. Soon after exploring the idea further with Reyes and others, The Ecuadorian Cultural Ambassadors Project (ECAP) was born.

“Most people think of Latinos and they immediately think of Mexicans, Puerto Ricans or Cubans. But, what about the rest of us? The

‘others’? People typically know very little about the other countries and cultures in Latin America,” expressed Mora. “This is a great opportunity to learn something different about our culture.”

“The main objective is to bring a group of cultural ambassadors from Ecuador to Ohio State and select communities in the area to provide educational programs focusing on how the Spanish influence blended with native expressions into unique forms of art in Ecuador,” explains Mora.

The ECAP will take place from April 22 through May 2, 2003 and will be part of the Silver Jubilee celebration of the Office of Hispanic Student Services at Ohio State.

During these two weeks, there will be a series of educational programs and performances presented to various audiences within the university and to selected communities in Ohio.

Los Bocheritos

Ecuadorian Repertoire



The members of La Tuna Quiteña share the Hispanic love for music, art, and festivities. The members of this group shared the classroom at the same high school. Their friends named the group "Los Bocheritos" because they interpreted songs performed by "Los Bocheros," a very famous group from Bilbao-Spain who visited Ecuador in the early 1900's. The genuine joy and artistic emotion that characterizes every performance is immediately contagious. The vocals are accompanied by accordion, guitars and pandereta.

The members of the group have very diverse professional activities:

- *Fernando Riofrio Pólit, the groups' director, studied economy and banking technologies and has worked at positions in the Ecuadorian financial system.*

- *Miguel Riofrio Polit, Agricultural Engineer, has specialized studies in Agricultural Planning in Israel. Currently, he is head manager for a company that exports flowers from Ecuador.*

- *Manuel Romoreloux Riofrio, doctor in law, obtained a Master's degree at Harvard University.*

- *Mauricio Riofrio Correa, graduate of the Metropolitan Design Institute, also studied at Jefe, Italy.*

- *Manuel Reyes Egas, banking executive, specialized in managing government bonds and stocks at the Banco de México.*

The group interprets Spanish songs, especially *pasodobles*, a march type of music adapted to Spanish dance. The Ecuadorian repertoire features *pasacalles*, which are equivalent to the Spanish *pasodoble*. These songs are the very characteristic music of the highland cities in Ecuador. La Tuna Quiteña's repertoire also includes *bulerías*, a popular rhythm from Andalucía.

Los Bocheritos are scheduled to make numerous presentations to students, faculty and staff at Ohio State.

One component of ECAP will focus on music by the group Los Bocheritos, who will perform Spanish and Ecuadorian songs while educating audiences on the historical and cultural relevance of music to both nations.

A second component of ECAP includes presentations on the art of the colonial era in Ecuador. Images from "La Escuela Quiteña", which belong to the collection of the Museo del Banco Central del Ecuador will illustrate the unique fusion of Spanish and native influences.

A third component will be an art exhibition with relief paintings or 'esculto-pintura' and demonstration of his techniques by the artist Bolivar Garcia.

Out of a desire to spread the joy, there is an effort to share all or part of the components with several high schools in Central Ohio.

Mora expressed that these activities are the result of the work and efforts of OSU's students, faculty, and administration. Thanks to: Carolina Reyes, Tina Staigers, Yvonne Olivares, Professors Donna Long, Fernando Unzueta, Ken Andrien, and Terrell Morgan. Credit and thanks also go to the Department of Spanish & Portuguese, Latino Studies, Student Affairs, the Multicultural Center, Hispanic Student Services, Office of Minority Affairs, Organization of Hispanic Faculty & Staff, Hispanic Oversight Committee, Center for Latin American Studies, University Council of Hispanic Organizations (UCHO), and Alpha Psi Lambda.

Presentation: "La Escuela Quiteña"

Origenes y desarrollo del Arte Quiteño Colonial



This presentation will include a chronological perspective of the Ecuadorian art and cultural evolution during the centuries. The images presented will include early objects from the Formative Period, the Development Period, the Integration Period, colonial art and the work of artists Bernardo Legarda and Manuel Chili, known as Caspicara, and la Escuela Quiteña.

A significant portion of this presentation will include images

of art from the Museo del Banco Central del Ecuador.

Images will be presented by Ximena Reyes, an executive administrative assistant, and a Guide for the Museum from the Banco Central del Ecuador.

Lectures of the Colonial Art will be delivered to students within and outside classroom settings. Academic departments are collaborating with this project to involve students in this learning opportunity. Professor Kenneth Andrien, Chair of the History Department, and an expert in Ecuador, will be instrumental in these presentations.

Ecuadorian Cultural Events - Partial Listing

Opening Reception

Tuesday, April 22nd
4:30-6:30pm
Second Floor - Bricker Hall

Daily Art Demonstration

by Bolivar Garcia
April 23rd - May 3rd
Exposures Gallery
Ohio Union

Bocheritos Serenade

Friday, April 25th
12:30-1:30pm
Location To Be Determined
Please Check Website Below

Reception for Latino Faculty & Staff

Friday, April 25th 7-10pm
Mathematics Tower

Bocheritos Recital

Monday, April 28th 7-8:30pm
Conference Theater
Ohio Union

Bocheritos Performance of "La Escuela Quiteña"

Tuesday, April 29th 6-9pm
Honors & Scholars Center

Bolivar Garcia Technique Demonstration

Tuesday, April 29th 6-9pm
Honors & Scholars Center

Bocheritos and Sumakta Performance

Wednesday, April 30th
10-11am
Hilliard-Davidson High School

Closing Reception

Friday, May 2nd 4-6 pm
Faculty Club

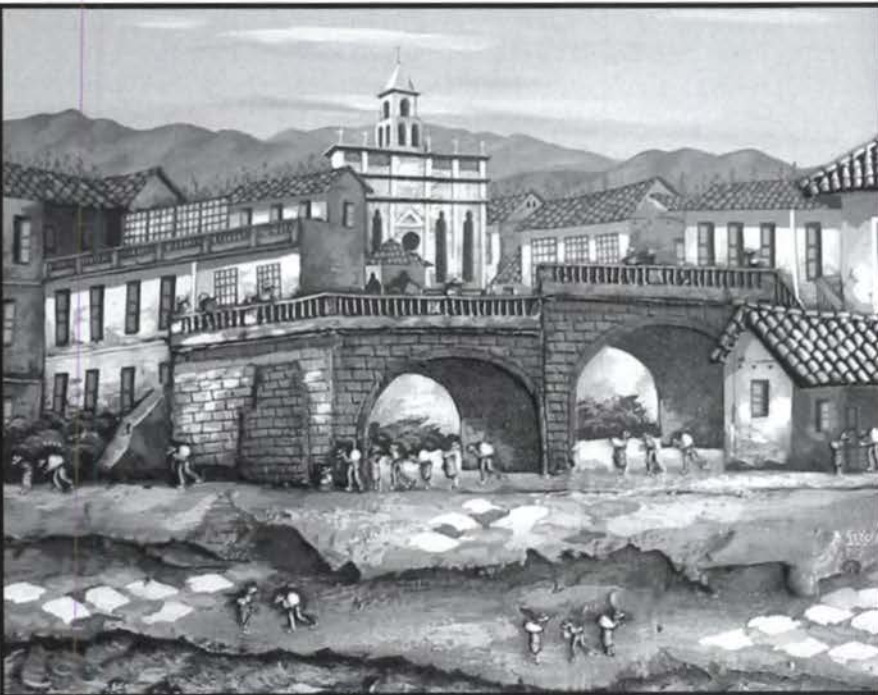
for specific information, please check out the *Qué Pasa* website:
www.service.ohio-state.edu/students/quepasa/contact.html

Events

Sumakta-Inkas: Music from the Andes

Sumakta is a musical group from Otavalo, Ecuador, a city nestled in the Andes mountains. Sumnakta interprets traditional music from their native ancestors. This group will join "Los Bocheritos" at the closing reception on May 2nd.





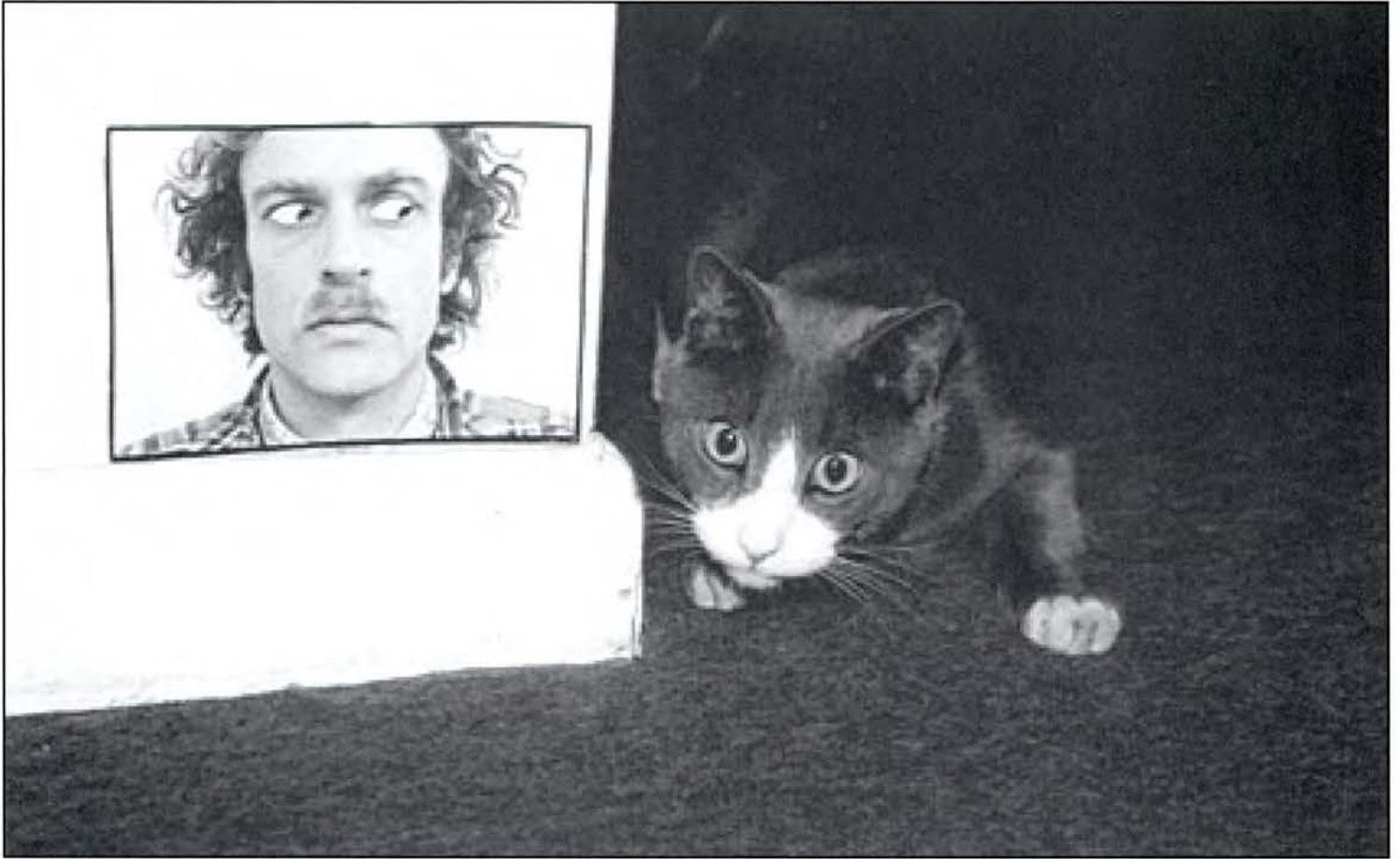
The Art of Bolivar Garcia

Bolivar Garcia's art is classified as sculptured paintings. Originally from Cuenca, Ecuador, Garcia's relief paintings depict the geography, architecture and culture of his native city. Garcia's works depict the old colonial houses that have been preserved, providing Cuenca with a unique architectural blend of the modern and the old. Garcia is a self taught artist and is known for having developed and perfected the sculpted painting technique. Garcia's paintings will be exhibited in Bricker Hall. The Faculty Club will also display some of his work. Garcia will demonstrate his technique to students at the *Exposures Gallery* in the Ohio Union.

Tony Mendoza's World View

at Columbus Museum of Art

by Ana M. Quevedo



Tony Mendoza is a very special photographer; his artwork captures mostly his personal life at home and echoes of his past life in Cuba. He adds a personal touch by describing what he sees through the lenses, many times through a narrative that brings a smile to his audience.

"I photograph what I have around me, at home. I decided some time ago that I'm interested in what is familiar to me, my personal life, and that is what I concentrate on. Since I consider it a personal document, I like to add my thoughts, sort of a diary of what I see," he says.

A professor at OSU's Department of Art, Mendoza first captured the photography world's attention in 1985 with *Ernie: a Photographer's Memoir* in which he immortalized his not-so-cuddly, eponymous cat and loft-mate. In the decades since Mendoza has chronicled in photographs, text and video his singular vision of family, work, and culture.

A new multimedia exhibition at the Columbus Museum of Art displays decades of his work. The multi-media exhibition includes: Early photos of Ernie, Mendoza's cat; selections from *Stories*, a now-

out-of-print book that includes autobiographical text and photos of Mendoza's family and friends; Images from his recent book, *Cuba: Going Back*, which describes his first visit back to Cuba after a 37-year exile; a series of postcards about dogs; photos of his daughter Lydia, including a series of the child in Halloween costumes; and the 7-minute, award-winning video, *My Father's Lunch* (1999) about the restaurant where his father faithfully ate lunch each day for 30 years.

Tony Mendoza's exhibition runs through May 4 at the Columbus Museum of Art -- 480 E. Broad St. Phone: 614-221-4848.

Mendoza has recently finished a novel he describes as a coming-of-age story situated in Cuba in the 1950s.

Tony Mendoza's *World View: Photographs, Words, Video* is organized by the Columbus Museum of Art and is sponsored by the Greater Columbus Arts Council. Additional on-going support is provided by the Columbus Foundation and the Ohio Arts Council.

Events

Jubilee Year

Twenty-five years of Hispanic Student Services

by Ana M. Quevedo

The office of Hispanic Student Services at OSU is celebrating 25 years of service and so is Carmen Alvarez-Breckenridge, the one and only director that office has known for a quarter of a century.

Alvarez-Breckenridge came to head the office, now part of the Multicultural Center located at the fourth floor of the Ohio Union, under the auspices of a group of people that have become symbols of leadership in campus and around the nation.

Normand Caban, now Director for Recruitment at OMA; Dr. Jose Villa, today the Assistant Vice Provost for Minority Affairs; Inez Cardozo-Freeman, emeritus professor, comparative studies; Dr. Michael Olivas, who was a student at that time and now is a professor of law at the University of Texas at Houston; and the Reverend Bill Lewis from the United Christian Center were the ones who brought the idea to life.

Carmen Alvarez-Breckenridge says that the best part of being the head of the office of Hispanic Student Services at OSU is the interaction with the students.

"It has been like being a mother to the students. It is a wonderful opportunity to help others not to feel alienated, to give them a home away from home. More than a job, it has been a devotion of my heart," she says.

Her office is a quiet testimony to that devotion throughout the artwork displayed on the walls: framed posters of each one of the yearly Hispanic Heritage celebrations. At first a week long celebration, later becoming a month long event, and for the 25th anniversary, an entire year -- a jubilee year.

The celebration for the jubilee will be prepared on a per quarter basis so that different students and offices have the opportunity to join in the festivities. "We are working in tandem with academic units and we want to celebrate the educational thrust of the graduate students in this effort. It's a celebration were everyone partakes," said Alvarez-Breckenridge.

During the spring quarter the main events will be the Ecuadorian Cultural Ambassadors, the Housing Civil Rights 2 Part series, Noche Latina, and a series of speakers.

Throughout the year, "The Road to Success: El Futuro eres Tu" will continue to bring together students every Tuesday at 5 p.m. to talk about different issues.

Alvarez-Breckenridge also said that the Men's Initiative, a new program through the Multicultural Center is also in progress. This program's main



purpose is to have a support group dedicated to Latino men.

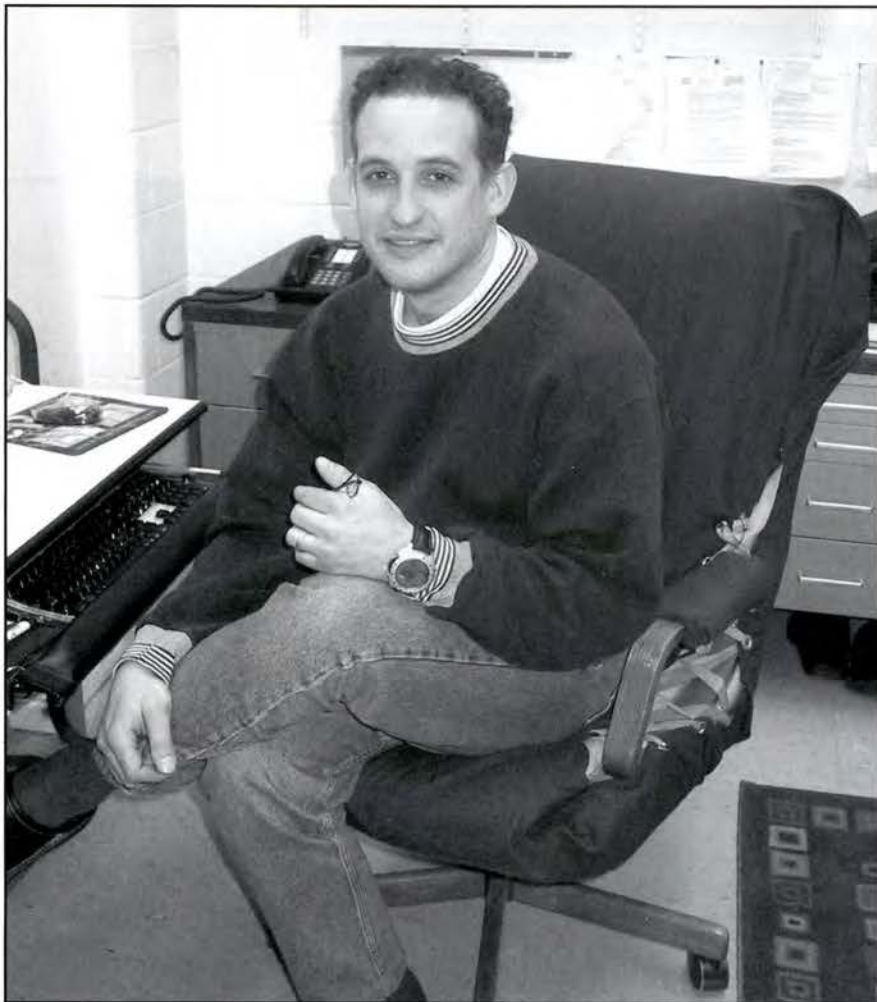
Today, Carmen is also supported by his assistant, Michael Yeh, a Korean and Taiwanese graduate student who explains that he applied to the position because he wanted to get a taste for a different culture.

Alvarez-Breckenridge adds that Michael is an integral part of the office and is fully involved with the Hispanic Community as part of his outreach efforts to create multicultural coalitions.

"We would like to thank all the offices and departments, as well as the community, not only for this year's participation in the jubilee celebration, but also for the support this office has received during the 25 years it has been in existence," concluded Alvarez-Breckenridge.

¡Bienvenidos!

New Latino Faculty & Staff



Juan D. Alfonzo, Ph.D.

Dr. Alfonzo joined the faculty of the Ohio State Microbiology Department as an Assistant Professor last September. Originally from Venezuela, Dr. Alfonzo received his B.S., M.S. and Ph.D. in Microbiology from Indiana University. He continued with his post-doctoral training at UCLA before moving to Columbus.

Dr. Alfonzo's work involves the study of trypanosomes, which are parasites responsible for millions of deaths worldwide, particularly in developing countries. He adds, "It is one of my goals to help attract and train highly qualified members of underrepresented minorities."



Samuel Echevarría, Ph.D.

The Ohio State Department of Sociology welcomed Dr. Echevarría as a new faculty member last August. A native of Brownsville, Texas/Matamoros, Mexico on the southernmost tip of the Texas/Mexico border, Dr. Echevarría received his B.A. (1997), M.A. (2000) and Ph.D. (2003) in Sociology from the University of Texas at Austin. In contrast, Dr. Echevarría also spent a couple of years in "El Barrio," the Puerto Rican community of Manhattan, New York City.

Since he and his wife Diane and two sons, Daniel, age 2 ½, and Elijah, age 6 weeks, moved to Columbus, Dr. Echevarría

has enjoyed interacting with faculty, staff, and students both in his classes and beyond.

"One could not ask for a warmer reception from the university community than the one my family and I have enjoyed! The fall was beautiful, but coming from Texas, my family and I could not have been prepared for this winter's snowy display."

Profiles

Artemio Ramirez, Jr., Ph.D.

This year, the Ohio State School of Journalism and Communication welcomed a new faculty member, Dr. Ramirez. Born in a small barrio just outside of Arecibo, Puerto Rico, Dr. Ramirez grew up in Chicago.

He received his B.A. and M.A. in Communication and Theater from the University of Illinois in Chicago where he spent two years working with the Latin American Recruitment and Educational Services (LARES), a student recruitment and retention program designed for “at risk” students from inner city, low income schools.

After earning his Ph.D. in Communication at University of Arizona, Dr. Ramirez spent two years at University of Minnesota in Duluth before OSU.

“My research focuses on computer-mediated communication, particularly in the context of the development and maintenance of social and task relationships.”

Dr. Ramirez has greatly enjoyed his time here at OSU so far and the motivation of the students. He remarks, “I wanted to work with top-notch undergraduate and graduate students, and help to continue the development of an outstanding School of Journalism and Communication. Those were my eventual goals when I left graduate school, and OSU was a place to realize them.”



Yolanda Zepeda, Ph.D.

Last November, the Ohio State graduate school welcomed Dr. Zepeda as the new Director of Enrichment Programs. She received her M.A. in Educational Psychology from Texas A&M University where she focused on language and pedagogy as they relate to class and culture, particularly for Mexican American children. During her doctoral studies in sociology at Indiana University, she examined racial and class segregation in public schools.

Although she hails from South Texas, she also spent time in Germany and the deep South before moving to the Midwest for graduate school. For Dr. Zepeda and her eight year old pit bull, Tiggie, were drawn not only to the climate of the Midwest but to the climate of OSU.

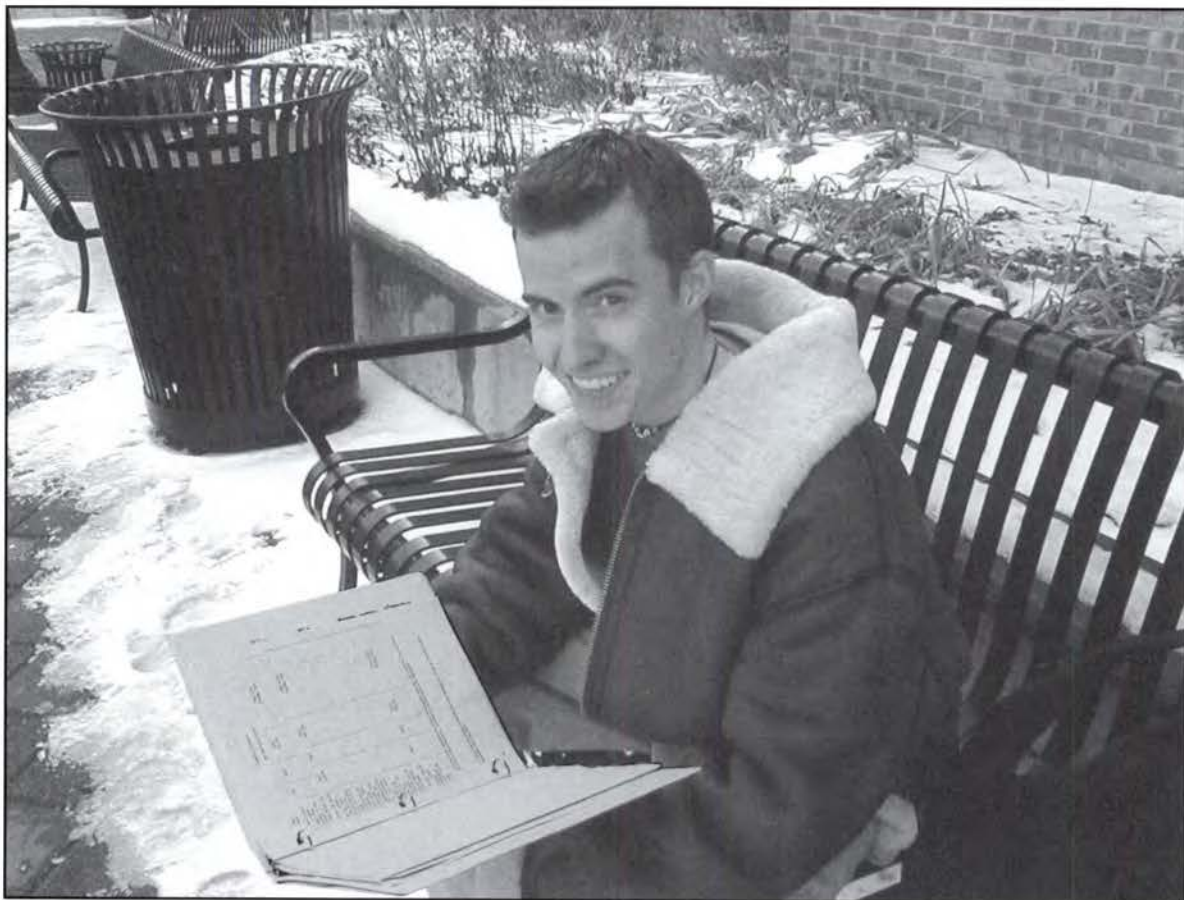
“While I always enjoy seeing my family, enjoying the food and music of my home, the more temperate climate of the Midwest makes it easier to catch that return flight.”

Dr. Zepeda mentions one final secret on her Ohio State experience so far: “The first time in my life that ever actually watched a football game was when I watched (on TV) the Buckeyes beat Michigan... I never imagined anything could move me to watch football but then again, I’d never experienced OSU football before.”

Christopher Alvarez Breckenridge

Student Profile

by Nicole DeGreg



Profiles

The fact is, it's not every day you meet a second year college student who has already achieved senior status, who has already been accepted into medical school, and who has been researching cancer genetics since his sophomore year in high school. The fact is, not every second year college student can balance honors classes and club fencing, a pre-med fraternity and the Honors Ambassadors program, all the while leading a sophomore class honorary as its president. Yet, the fact is, Christopher Alvarez-Breckenridge is not some super-student at the University of the Unrealistic. He is just an everyday Latino student with big dreams striving for success alongside 48,000 other students at The Ohio State University.

Christopher is a second year senior here at Ohio State double majoring in Biology and Classics. He is the son of Cuban-born Carmen Alvarez-Breckenridge, Director of Hispanic Student Services. As a National Hispanic Scholar, he was invited to participate in the Early Admissions Pathway (EAP) for the Ohio State medical school, in which, provided

he maintains a certain GPA, he is automatically accepted into the school after he graduates.

Although he is not sure what type of medicine he would like to study, he is leaning toward oncology and would like to find a balance between research and patient care. In preparation for medical school, Christopher is a member of Alpha Epsilon Delta, a pre-med fraternity here at Ohio State.

On campus, Christopher is extremely involved in activities. He participates in the Honors Ambassadors program, Helix (a biological sciences honorary), club fencing, and human cancer genetics research. However, he feels his most "exciting" activity is acting as the president of Mirrors, a sophomore class honorary.

Mirrors is one of the two sophomore class honoraries. Its focus lies in encouraging leadership, scholarship, and service, particularly in affiliation with the James Cancer Hospital and Research Institute. Although Mirrors participates in many service activities and fundraisers such as Community Commitment and the Stephanie

Identidad

por Hiram José Irizarry Osorio

¿Qué soy?
¿Quién soy?
¿Cuál es mi lugar?
¿Soy negro, blanco...?
¿Soy rico, pobre...?
¿Pertenezco al mundo?
¿Pertenezco a un continente?
¿Pertenezco a una región?
¿Pertenezco a un país?
¿Pertenezco a una isla?
¿Pertenezco a...?

~o~

¿Quién dictamina la contestación a dichas preguntas?
¿Por qué no puedo decidir donde ubicarme?
¿O será que puedo?
Si es que puedo, ¿por qué me encuentro en un debate existencial constante?

~o~

¿No estaré entendiendo bien las clasificaciones?
¿O será que las clasificaciones no se dejan entender?
¿O será que los clasificadores no quieren que sus clasificaciones se entiendan?
¿O será que los clasificadores no entienden sus clasificaciones?

~o~

¿Será necesario poder clasificarme?

¡No!

Entonces, ¿por qué siento entonces la necesidad de clasificarme?
Porque busco mi identidad...

Identity

by Hiram José Irizarry Osorio

What am I?
Who am I?
Which is my place?
Am I black, white...?
Am I rich, poor...?
Do I belong to the world?
Do I belong to a continent?
Do I belong to a region?
Do I belong to a country?
Do I belong to an island?
Do I belong to...?

~o~

Who dictates the answer to these queries?
Why I cannot decide where to locate myself?
Or is it that I can?
If it is that I can, why I find myself in a constant existentialist debate?

~o~

Could it be that I do not correctly understand the classifications?
Or is it that the classifications do not let themselves be understood?
Or is it that the classifiers do not want their classifications to be understood?
Or is it that the classifiers themselves do not understand their classifications?

~o~

Is it necessary that I am able to classify myself?

No!

Then, why I feel the urge of classifying myself?
Because I seek for my identity...

Tu Espacio

Spielman Walk, its main project is an annual formal dance with proceeds benefiting the James hospital. This year, the dance was held on February 22 and was a great success.

Christopher became involved in Mirrors on their recruitment night during his first year at Ohio State. He was inducted in April and "from there everything just fell into place," he says. "Initially I had no thought of running for presidency, but I just thought, well Mirrors does a lot of great things and if I could spearhead what we do, I'd like to do a lot more." As one of the few Latino students involved in Mirrors, Christopher would like to target more Latino involvement in honoraries in the future.

He comments, "I feel that I can set a precedent and encourage Latinos to become involved in things like this, even if they're not in the Honors program. It's something they will hopefully see they can become involved with by helping the community as a whole and becoming more involved in the traditions of the University. The honoraries have always been a part of OSU and they carry a lot of traditions."

Although Christopher does plan to join a junior class honorary this spring, he does not intend to run for president again and would rather give someone else a chance to step in. When asked what advice he would give to first year Latino students, he replies, "Look out for things you're interested in and there are undoubtedly organizations that are going to be related to those interests. Make sure that you pursue those organizations because your undergraduate experience is a lot more fulfilling if you diversify yourself and get involved with the campus as a whole."

It is obvious that Christopher Alvarez-Breckenridge is well on his way to achieving success. When asked for a motto by which he chooses to live his life, he chooses to mention a quote he once heard by an Ohio State basketball player who said "Practice does not make perfect; perfect practice makes perfect." Christopher adds, "To achieve perfection you have to strive for it."

This is America

by Carlos Castillo



Later on, you have to continue, because making a life should start by living from the very first day. And although nothing that you learned seems enough, braveness and decision accompanied you from your home country to start the journey. This is the United States of America, as you expected it or not, with wide highways and crowded streets, tall, wonderful buildings as samples of power, and small farms as samples of hard work, thriving cities and big acropolises, different accents, different sounds, even the sky appears painted with a different blue.

Then the vastness of the Ohio State campus shows up with all its splendor. The immensity of the Shoe impresses you and the beauty of the Towers at night won't fade away from your memories. The insecurity to talk, to walk, to ask for a favor and to socialize turns to confidence. Soon, after the first impression, your mind settles down as well as your body. You start feeling more comfortable with the environment, the people and the habits. You learn how to react to different situations, to live with a stranger that will become your friend, to share your culture and to understand others. Classes become a routine that you can deal with. You start absorbing the system, or the system starts absorbing you- either way you find everything easier.

As time passes, you get used to the taste of food that made you sick one night and to the wet shoes after walking in the snow. There are no more colds from committing the mistake of going outside on that deceptively sunny day when the temperature was below zero. The Statue of Liberty starts getting a deeper meaning, and you start feeling the red white and blue as a little part of yourself. This is America for us as international students. Sometimes it is the great, sometimes the unfortunate. Many times it is the land of big achievements and triumphs, few times the land of tragedy and defeats. Here we are in the land where we always wanted to come. And from now on it is up to us make to this experience worthwhile and to hope always that we have made the right decision.

This is America for us as international students ...A storm of thoughts.... Dreams... Maybe sadness combined with excitement for knowing something new... Dreams... The faces of the people that you love and pictures of the places that you never forget running through your head.... Dreams... And you finally wake up at the end of a very long trip that brought you to a fantastic land.

Nothing that you can recognize as yours and no one that can recognize you. It is the very beginning of a new life surrounded by opportunities and experiences that will make you stronger. From the instant you breathe the strange air, you feel like you are another person. Maybe it is a feeling of loneliness or maybe of freedom. One way or the other, the feeling is only yours because at that moment there are no friends to share it with.

Perspectives

¡Que rico! Food Review

by Erica Lerma



Casa Fiesta

Hours: 11 am - 10 pm Daily
901 E. Dublin Granville Road
614-888-3995

Non-Smoking & Smoking

\$\$\$: **\$6-10/person**

Credit Cards:

MasterCard, Visa, AMEX, Discover

Category

Casual Dining - Menudo on Sundays

Rating: **4.5**



At first glance, after entering Casa Fiesta, one cannot help but notice how spacious the dining area is. There are numerous tables and booths to accommodate groups of different sizes. Upstairs there is a large room, complete with a full bar, perfect for those family get-togethers. Ramon (my co-reviewer) and I were greeted, seated, and served water quite promptly. The host was very polite.

After carefully reviewing the menu, we decided to go with a traditional appetizer: the cheese quesadilla. We also ordered our meals; I chose chicken fajitas, and my partner chose a combination platter of tacos, enchiladas, and tostadas. Within ten minutes, our appetizer arrived. The flour tortilla was soft, the cheese was gooey, and it was served piping hot. The quesadilla tasted delightful, and was enough to share.

After the enticing quesadilla, we were ready for more. We waited only few minutes, and then it was time for the main course. Our server gave us plenty of time to enjoy our appetizer. My fajitas came sizzling on their own skillet, accompanied by rice and refritos (refried beans). The four tortillas were fluffy, and reminded me of my abuela's homemade tortillas. The chicken was seasoned just right, and the ratio of meat to veggies was about 2 to 1. It was served with salsa, which more than satisfied

my hot meter. The rice and beans were not regular restaurant style- I could taste the hard work and effort put into them. The rice was fluffy, and the beans tasted fresh. Our waiter kept our drink glasses full, and he even brought me more tortillas before I could request them. My meal was delicious.

Ramon ordered a combination platter. It was also served with rice and refritos. He readily agreed that the rice and beans were prepared with thought. His meal was served on a hot plate heaped with food. The enchilada was oozing with cheese, and the tostada was piled high with toppings. Ramon said the food was very satisfying, but almost too much, especially after the appetizer we had shared.

Throughout our meal, our waiter was extremely polite, and paid attention to our every need. He cleared our plates, and never let us see the bottom of our glasses. After finishing our meals, I excused myself to wash my hands. The ladies' restroom was so immaculate I couldn't believe my eyes. I was pleasantly surprised, due to the fact that the restaurant has a high volume of customers. As we left, we were greeted again and told to have a nice day. We both agreed that we would make the trip again, as we had such an excellent experience.

We give Casa Fiesta a rating of 4 1/2

University-wide Council of Hispanic Organizations

Latino Student Organizations Reports - Winter 2003

Greetings from UCHO, the University-wide Council of Hispanic Organizations! I hope that everyone is having an incredible year.

UCHO is currently sponsoring a night at Global Nightclub in the Long Street District, on February 28th 2003. Our Thanksgiving dinner, held last quarter was an evening to remember. I would like to invite everyone, to attend our meetings, they are held bi-weekly on Mondays in RM 311 of the Ohio Union at 7:30 PM.

There is still time to be involved! We welcome everyone, so bring a smile and a positive attitude, and let's show Ohio State what the Latino/a community can do. Remember, that UNITY is a part of community. The only way to make a difference is to be involved.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at lerma.2@osu.edu or by telephone at 297-7818.

Erica Lerma
UCHO President - 2002-2003

Folclor Hispano

This year Folclor Hispano has made many wonderful strides both in membership and performance.

Currently we are working on some new dances such as El Jarabe Tapatio, Guacamaya, and El Lucero all from Mexico; Sevillanas from Spain; a new Merengue piece, and our newest dance - Plena from Puerto Rico.

We all are very excited about our upcoming performances: The Hispanic Festival at the Pontifical College Josephinum on March 9, 2003, La Noche Latina - Noche de Ronda on April 4, 2003, and possible performances in May at the Crew Stadium and in June for the Festival Latino.

Everyone is welcome to attend our performances. If you have any questions about our group or need information regarding our performances, please feel free to contact Lucille Chenhalls, President at luseal81@hotmail.com or 614-297-0474

Organizations



Asociación de Estudiantes Mexicanos

First of all I'd like to salute all members of the Mexican Student Association. It's great to know that new members are being included in our roster enriching our community.

Regarding the involvement of Mexicans in OSU Hispanic activities, I'd like to communicate you that we are part of a new committee recently formed.

Based on the Hispanic Needs Assessment that was performed almost one year ago, a committee comprised of a wide variety of Latino members was formed to follow up with the results of that survey.

Mexican as well as Latino voices are being raised through this committee which will oversee the fulfillment of the important issues reported by our student community. This survey was a vehicle for us to express our concerns as well as our demands. I'd like to encourage you to do so, since the process of voicing our thoughts is continuous.

Feel free to contact me and express your concerns at garza-delgado.1@osu.edu.

Abelardo Garza-Delgado

Alpha Psi Lambda Coed Latino-interest Fraternity

Thank you for this opportunity to update you on what Alpha Psi Lambda has been contributing to the campus and community. But first of all, let me tell you who we are.

Alpha Psi Lambda is a co-ed Latino-interest fraternity that was founded at OSU in 1985. We function as an organization, but we are a family.

During Autumn Quarter, 3 new students pledged and joined our familia, and we currently have a winter pledge line Project and committing our efforts to its funding, as well as contributing to the Hispanic Jubilee as a whole. We hope to support this program as much as possible, and hope that you will join us at the events also.

Our community service projects have included, but are not limited to, cooking at the Ronald McDonald House, working the WOSU telethon, attending Martin Luther King Day of Service, and preparing for AIDS walk.

We have also been working at Nationwide Arena and distributing Nuestro Ohio Newspaper in order to raise funds. If you would like more information or would like to participate, please contact me at staigers.3@osu.edu. I look forward to seeing you!

Florentina Staigers
Alpha Psi Lambda President

HGO - Hispanic Graduate

Organization

The Hispanic Graduate Organization is the oldest Hispanic organization on campus. HGO was created for you, Hispanic and Latin American graduate student, as a means of promoting personal development, and to provide information, support and assistance in the academic development of Hispanic graduate students at OSU. At the same time, HGO is committed to promote and facilitate social and cultural awareness and activities according to the needs of its members by providing coordinating services, program and activities for students and the University at large.

Our main goal is to provide social activities and gatherings that give you the opportunity to interact with other Hispanic and Latin American students. Our activities range from movie-nights to quarterly trips. We are also committed to providing students with outreach opportunities both within the university community and beyond.

Spring & Summer Activities Include:

Road trip to NYC or Chicago
Hiking at Old Man's Cavern
Bowl For Kid's Sake (Big Brother's Big Sister's)
Co-sponsoring Ecuadorian Cultural Ambassadors
Sponsoring Conversational English Group
(for Visiting Scholars, International students, and their Spouses)
Canoeing at the Mohican River

If you would like to find out more about us please visit our website or contact us directly at Olivares.2@osu.edu.

<http://www.ohio-state.edu/students/hgo/>



In an ever changing world, I never realized just how prevalent racism was in society. People say that racism is dead but I believe that it is still alive, well, and rearing its ugly head toward the Latino/a community. After having recently received an e-mail via the Hispanic List serve regarding a current article in Vanity Fair, I realized just what was going on in the minds of many people all over the country: ignorance. Racism is underlying, maybe not voiced aloud, but many people have preconceived notions about other races and cultures. In the February issue of Vanity Fair a reader wrote Dame Edna for some advice. It reads as follows:

*"Dear Dame Edna,
I would very much like to learn a foreign language, preferably French or Italian, but every time I mention this, people tell me to learn Spanish instead. They say, 'Everyone is going to be speaking Spanish in 10 years. George W. Bush speaks Spanish.' Could this be true? Are we all going to have to speak Spanish?
Torn Romantic, Palm Beach"*

In response Dame Edna writes

*"Dear Torn,
Forget Spanish. There's nothing in that language worth reading except Don Quixote, and a quick listen to the CD of Man of La Mancha will take care of that. There was a poet named Garcia Lorca, but I'd leave him on the intellectual back burner if I were you. As for everyone's speaking it, what twaddle! Who speaks it that you are really desperate to talk to? The Help? Your Leaf blower? Study French or German, where there are at least a few books worth reading, or, if you're American, try English."*

Apparently, this is what Dame Edna felt was acceptable to say in response. I have to wonder, not only about what type of society we live in, but how this writer justified in their head that this was something that should be printed in a national magazine. As a young Latina woman I have to ask, "Are we taking steps backwards?" Messages such as this one clearly display that although the Latino/a community has taken great strides, we still have a long way to go. I truly feel that columns such as Dame Edna's are to attempt to keep minorities "in their place." With the current Latin Crave, maybe she felt that our moment of glory needed to be cut short, but who the hell is she to tell the nation about our community? It is time that these stereotypes are put to rest and that we take a stand.

After calling Latina Magazine, I was pleased to hear that in the February 11th New York Times newspaper, a formal apology to the Latino/a community was issued. I was also pleased to receive a response from the editors of Vanity Fair after submitting my letter of disgust. Vanity Fair has stated in their letter to me that they will once again be printing their formal apology to the Latino/a community, along with a letter from Salma Hayek, who happened to appear on the cover of their February issue.

I would like to thank the Ohio State Latino/a community because, in making this matter known, many more people have been enlightened.

Needs Assessment - The Work Continues



Several meetings - like the one in January 2003 pictured above, have been held informing the OSU Latino community about the results of the Needs

Assessment Survey, as well as future steps. The full contents of the Needs Assessment Survey Report, including the Executive Summary and recommendations for action, can

be found on and downloaded from the *¿Qué Pasa, OSU?* Website:
www.osu.edu/students/quepasa

Congratulations! ¡Felicitaciones!

GRADUATES - Autumn Quarter 2002

BACHELOR'S DEGREES

Boyer, Mary Elizabeth	B.S.	BIOLOGY
Cabrera Prado, Gonzalo Pablo	B.S.E.C.E.	ECE
Carlson, Susan L	B.A.	ENGLISH
Chang, Gisela Del Carmen	B.S.H.E.	FM RES M
Fernandez, Amber Kristina	B.A.	HIST ART
Garcia, Nicholas Britt	B.A.	PHILOS
Gomez, Elia Elisa	B.A.	ENGLISH
Herrera, Christopher Paul	B.S.	PSYCH
Lozano, Michelle Lynn	B.S.	PSYCH
Mc Call, Crystal Joy	B.S.H.E.	HDFS
Melvin, Andrea Lynn	B.A.	SPANISH
Neris Rodriguez, Mariely	B.A.	PORTUGUESE
Pennington, Steven Michael	B.A.	AVIA-ASC
Perez, Julian	B.S.B.A.	FINANCE
Proano, Anthony Franklin	B.A.	SPANISH
Robertson, Stephannie Rachelle	B.A.	SOCIOL
Rodriguez, Alicia Beth	B.A.	INT STDS
Rodriguez, Odiel	B.A.	CHEM
Santos, Roberto	B.A.	SOCIOL
Spence, Angelique Irene	B.A.	POLI SCI
Vasquez, Joshua Andrew	B.A.	ENGLISH
Young, Bradley Andrew	B.S.B.A.	MARKETING

MASTER'S DEGREES

Lobao, Erick George	M.A.	GEOG
Guzman, Robert John	M.Public Hlth.	MPH
Maldonado, Jorge Higinio	M.A.	ECON
Quijano, Nicanor	M.S.	ELEC ENG
Ramirez Grajeda, Mauricio	M.A.	ECON
Ugueto, Ana Maria	M.A.	PSYCH

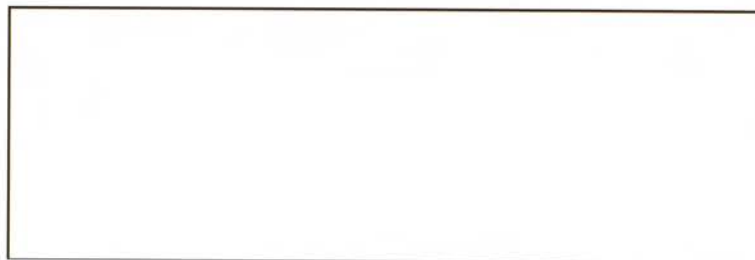
DOCTORAL DEGREES

Baltazar, Arturo	Ph.D.	WELD ENG
Buenrostro-Nava, Marco Tulio	Ph.D.	H&CS
Cuellar, Clara Romalda	Ph.D.	EDU PAES
Hibbeln, Paul Joseph	Ph.D.	HISTORY
Inestrillas, Maria Del Ma	Ph.D.	SPAN&POR
Jessen, Gregg Huascar	Ph.D.	ELEC ENG
Morana San G, Ana Maria	Ph.D.	SPAN&POR
Perez-Chavolla, Lilia Judith	Ph.D.	COMMUNIC
Ramirez Rosales, Gerardo	Ph.D.	H&CS
Sanchez, Carlos Andres	Ph.D.	PHYSICS
Solano-Lopez, Claudia Enriqueta	Ph.D.	FD SC&NU
Torcal, Mariano	Ph.D.	POLI SCI

¿Qué Pasa, OSU?

c/o Office of Undergraduate Admissions and First Year Experience
attn: Victor Mora, Associate Director
930 Lincoln Tower
1800 Cannon Dr.
Columbus, OH 43210

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Sources & Resources



Have you ever wanted to learn the fine art of salsa dancing?

Well, here's your chance!

Every Saturday, Ohio State's very own Carlos Rubio is giving you the opportunity to learn the steps behind salsa dancing. Carlos has always had a passion for Latin dancing, but he especially loves teaching it.

"When I see my students doing the moves I taught them, that's an all-time high for me."

So, come on out this Saturday and learn to move to the rhythm of salsa!

What? Salsa dancing lessons by Carlos Rubio

Where? Downstairs in the Ohio Union

When? Every Saturday from 4-6 pm

Who? Anyone is welcome

How much? \$5 per person/lesson

What to bring? According to Carlos,

"Just come with a heart to dance!"

What else? A portion of the proceeds from the classes are given to charity through Alpha Psi Lambda Coed Latino Fraternity

