Message from our Director

Dear Friends of the Gastón Institute,

I am excited to share with you the re-edition of our newsletter after a long hiatus. Though we celebrate our heritage all year around, I hope you can join us for special activities during the Hispanic Heritage Month, including a visit from Corporación Vínculos, our partners in Bogotá, Colombia. In the newsletter, you will also learn about research projects that the institute is engaged with alongside our community partners and visiting scholars. In case you’ve missed it, we are also including links and information about The Effect of Proposed Changes in Federal Public Charge Policy on Latino U.S. Citizen Children in Massachusetts, our newest report, which was released in collaboration with the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute.

We decided to create a Hall of Fame as an opportunity for you to meet some of our amazing collaborators and staff in the university and our extended network—the list is long so we will be highlighting their continued work in upcoming editions. In the current environment, where social media often rapidly drives discourse, we are thrilled to relaunch our newsletter as a window into our work, and the valuable contributions of our partners and collaborators—including the priceless voices and research assistance of our students. We look forward to working with you to better understand the experiences of Latinx communities and to help shape more effective public policies.

Yours truly,
Dr. Lorna Rivera, Director of the Gastón Institute

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH ACTIVITIES

Speaker Series Fall 2018: Human Rights in Colombia

Join us for a discussion with Liz Arévalo, the Executive Director of Corporación Vínculos, an NGO founded and led by women, based in Bogotá, Colombia. Learn
about their efforts to provide psychosocial care to victims of the Colombian armed conflicts, and how they are building cultures of peace and promoting gender equality.

Tuesday, September 25th
12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

FREE RSVP

Mi Casa es su Casa: Passport to Success

Mi Casa Es Su Casa: Passport to Success is an event that welcomes new and returning students while celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month! Come and join Casa Latinx and the Gastón Institute in welcoming a new school year by stopping by for some food, music and activities. Get to know new people, and bring your friends and family. Discover the Latinx community at UMass Boston with open arms. Feel at home because our house is your house.

Wednesday, October 10th
4:00 pm

FREE RSVP

Involúcrate 2018

On October 15th and 22nd, more than 400 middle and high school students from the Greater Boston area will be part of Involúcrate 2018, now in its 3rd edition, at the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the U.S. Senate. Elected officials and young Latino staffers are expected to be part of a panel, among other civic engagement activities to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month.
Month and generate awareness of early involvement in public policy.

Monday, October 15th
Monday, October 22nd
9:30 am - 1:30 pm

Check out the pictures from last year

NEW REPORT

The Effect of Proposed Changes in Federal Public Charge Policy on Latino U.S. Citizen Children in Massachusetts

Between 7,000 and 17,000 U.S.-born Latino children could be expected to drop MassHealth coverage in Massachusetts were this proposed policy would take effect. A drop in coverage of this magnitude could increase the percentage of uninsured U.S.-born Latino children in Massachusetts from 2.6% to a figure between 16% and 35%.

FREE DOWNLOAD

CURRENT PROJECTS

A Comparative Study of Haitian Immigrant Communities in the Metropolitan Region of Belo Horizonte and the Greater Boston Area
This research project intends to promote understanding of the Haitian diaspora and the role of Brazil in the remigration of Haitians heading for the United States. It relies on an in-depth inquiry of the social ties among Haitian nationals established in the Greater Boston Area, those established in the Metropolitan Region of Belo Horizonte, and the social interactions among different actors living in each of the two countries.


**Immigrant Youth-Led Participatory Action Research**

This research project in collaboration with African Community Economic Development of New England (ACEDONE) and Center to Support Immigrant Organizing (CSIO) addresses the challenges faced by English Language Learners in the Boston Public Schools regarding ongoing racism, xenophobia, and Islamophobia. Led by teams of Latinx and Somali youth researchers, the youth will document their experiences and make curricular and policy recommendations to Boston Public Schools.


**Latino Student Success: Building Pathways from High School to Baccalaureate**

This three-year project funded by Massachusetts Department of Higher Education brings together Bunker Hill Community College (BHCC), Chelsea High School and Gastón Institute to collaborate on research and curriculum development projects focused on leveraging the cultural assets of Latino/a students to support college participation, degree completion and transfer success among underserved Latino/a students.


**How is the Zika epidemic affecting women’s lives? Women, Reproduction and Family Life in the time of Zika**

The research objectives of this project are: 1. To identify women’s social and health literacy about Zika; 2) To describe women’s perceptions and knowledge about the potential and real effects of Zika on their personal and family lives.; 3) To characterize women’s perceptions and knowledge about how government policies affect their reproductive rights.; 4) To determine how medical care of Zika disease influences the decisions women make regarding their reproduction.

P.I.: Ana Rosa Linde Arias, MS, PhD.

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We appreciate your generous support!
Meet our Research Assistants

New semester, new young promising talent!

We are always excited to receive new interns as research assistants:

Antonella Oms-Natali, Jennifer Lopez, Marquis Jones, Keisy Gonzalez-Gomez and Ee Pfen (undergraduate students), and Franklin Ortiz, Ashley Torres, Krizia Valentino, Ellie Cordero and Ilyitch Tabora (graduate).

Best of luck and success to Ashley Torres and Daniela Bravo in their new graduate careers at UMass Boston!

Congratulations to Trevor Mattos and Leidy Quiceno for graduating with their Master's degrees and their promotion to Research Associates at the institute!

Hall of Fame

It would not be the same without them!

This section highlights some of our most amazing collaborators.

Research Associate
Adán Colón-Carmona

Dr. Colón-Carmona is an Associate Professor of Biology who studies cell, genetics, and molecular biology of plants. He has been a long time collaborator with our Institute, broadening the participation of Latinx students in STEM, a mentor for the LLOP, and currently serving in the Institute's Faculty Advisory Board.

Visiting Scholar
Patricia Rodrigues Costa de Sa

Patricia is an Economist with a Master's degree in Geography from Pontifícia Universidade Católica de Minas Gerais, currently a visiting scholar at the Gastón Institute, researching about the Haitian Diaspora. Her dissertation aims at providing understanding on the actual role of Brazil in the Haitian migrations.
Undergraduate Research Assistant
Ellie Cordero

Ellie is in her fourth year at UMass Boston, with a double major in Theater Arts and Women's and Gender Studies. She has been involved on campus through Beacon Voyages for Service, worked as a Stage Manager and Carpenter in the Theater, and she is currently in her second year as Coordinator of Casa Latinx.

Graduate Research Assistant
Ashley Torres

Ashley is an Afro-puertorriqueña first-generation graduate and LLOP alumna. She received the Women’s Gender and Sexualities studies founders’ Award for Academic Excellence and Social Activism, she’s a Robert Hildreth Latin America Internship Awardee, and she has been involved in Strong Women Strong Girls, Casa Latinx and Beacon Voyages for Service.

Board Member
Lina Cañón

Lina is an Operations and Program Associate at the Imago Dei Fund. She serves as the co-chair of our Community Advisory Board and has been instrumental in the creation and implementation of Involucrate in partnership with the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the U.S. Senate.

Community Partner
Hyde Square Task Force

We have developed a close partnership with this amazing organization focused on youth development, right in the heart of Boston's Latin Quarter. Since 2018, their beautiful building serves as a headquarters for our community advisory board meetings.

umb.edu/gastoninstitute  |  (617) 287-5790

For the most updated information please engage with us and our community in social media