Message from our Director

Dear Friends of the Gastón Institute,

¡Saludos! Greetings! I am excited to share the spring edition of the Gastón Institute’s newsletter and tell you about the research and community development projects we are doing, and our collaborative efforts to inform the public and policymakers about important issues affecting Latino communities in Massachusetts.

In 2019, the Gastón Institute celebrates its 30 year anniversary, and we hope you will join us for special events that we will host throughout the year to commemorate the legacy and impact of our transformative work. We will also have a special event to celebrate the 25 year anniversary of our Latino Leadership Opportunity Program (LLOP).

Finally, this newsletter presents our recent "Massachusetts Latino Population: 2010-2035" demographic report. We are grateful to Representative Carlos Gonzalez and the Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus for organizing a well-attended legislative briefing with elected officials at the statehouse who discussed the implications for their constituencies. On behalf of the Gastón Institute we thank you for your support of our mission and hope you enjoy the spring!

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

30th ANNIVERSARY

A Year of Celebrations

We have recently launched new branding to celebrate our 30th anniversary. Stay tuned for all the events that Gastón Institute is organizing and co-sponsoring, and make sure you grab a piece of cake!

Upcoming celebratory events:
Changing Faces of Greater Boston, a presentation of a research report by the CANALA Institutes, the Donahue Institute and The Boston Foundation. This project examines racial/ethnic demographic changes and highlights social-economic outcomes and other quality of life factors. **May 8, 8:30 - 10:30 am** at the Edgerley Center for Civic Leadership, 3rd Floor, 75 Arlington Street, Boston, MA.

2nd Annual UndocuGrad/Latinx/LLOP Joint Graduation
Join us to celebrate the graduation of our beloved Latinx students, Class of 2019! **May 10, 5:30 - 8:30 pm** at UMass Boston Campus Center, Ballroom B & C

**3rd Amplify Conference: Claiming Our Power**
This event will convene Latinx leaders across multiple sectors, including political leaders, community organizers, business executives, cultural leaders and the artistic community to recognize our Latinx elected leaders and develop and understanding of the state of the Latinx community in Massachusetts. **June 1, 1:30 - 7:00 pm** at the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the U.S. Senate.

**Coming soon in the Fall of 2019:**
**30 Year Anniversary Breakfast**

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**NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Robert Hildreth Latin America Internship Award: Winner Announced!

Congratulations **Luidgi Lalanne**, an undergraduate student in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, who will go to Puerto Rico to research his project “Resolution to Colonial Echos: Afro-Latinidad Puertorriqueña on Colorism.”

Sponsored by the Gastón Institute and the generosity of Robert and Diane Hildreth, the [Hildreth Latin America Internship](#)
Award provides approximately $3,000 for UMass Boston students to travel and research in Latin American or Caribbean countries.

Dr. Melissa Colón Presents Speaker Series Lecture about Puerto Rican School-Aged Mothers

A PhD graduate from Tufts University and former Associate Director at the Gastón Institute, Dr. Melissa Colón gave a successful talk to more than 100 attendees, including students from Psychology and Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies.

Her excellent presentation called "De tal palo tal astilla: Puerto Rican School-Aged Mother's Testimonios of (Un)Belonging, Resistance, and Reimagination" is based on thorough research and sheds attention to how the State, with schooling as one of its most permeating apparatuses (re)produces gendered, classed, and racialized notions of (un)belonging for school-aged mothers.

Congratulations, Melissa!

Dr. Lorna Rivera Appointed to the Boston Public Schools Committee by Mayor Marty Walsh

On January 31, 2019, Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh appointed Gastón Institute's director Dr. Lorna Rivera to the Boston Public Schools Committee. Dr. Rivera was sworn in by Mayor Walsh at a ceremony in
City Hall on Tuesday, February 5.

"A Boston Public Schools parent and an accomplished educator with an extensive background in student advancement and strengthening diverse communities, Dr. Rivera is a wonderful addition to the Boston School Committee," said Mayor Walsh.

The seven-member Boston School Committee is responsible for defining the vision, mission and goals of the Boston Public Schools; establishing and monitoring the annual operating budget; hiring, managing and evaluating the Superintendent; and setting and reviewing district policies and practices to support student achievement.

Congratulations, Lorna!

NEW REPORT
Massachusetts Latino Population: 2010-2035

The report that everyone has been talking about!

The Latino population in Massachusetts continues to grow at a rapid rate. From 2010 to 2017, the Latino population increased by 28%. This represented about 60% of all population growth in the Commonwealth.

Using a cohort-component methodology, the Gastón Institute projects that by 2035 the Latino population will grow to over 1.15 million and represent nearly 15.3% of the population.

This growth will be due more to future Massachusetts births than to international migration. Thus, Latinos already living in Massachusetts will have more impact on the future population than will future immigrants.
CURRENT PROJECTS

The Youth Ubuntu Project

This Healey Public Service grant is led by Dr. Patricia Krueger-Henny, College of Education & Human Development, and co-Principal Investigator, Dr. Lorna Rivera in collaboration with African Community Economic Development of New England (ACEDONE) and the Center to Support Immigrant Organizing (CSIO). The Youth Ubuntu project is guided by Participatory Action Research to address the challenges faced by English Learners in the Boston Public Schools related to racism, xenophobia, and Islamophobia. Teams of Latinx and Somali youth researchers are documenting their experiences and making policy recommendations to Boston Public Schools.

Boston Foundation and Donahue Institute: "Changing Faces of Boston Demographics"

The Institute for Asian American Studies, Trotter Institute, Institute for Native New England Studies, and the Gastón Institute are working with the Boston Foundation and Donahue Institute on a research report that examines racial/ethnic demographic changes in Massachusetts and highlights social-economic outcomes such as educational attainment, housing, political representation and other quality of life factors. This collaborative research maximizes the strengths of each of the CANALA institutes who are providing analysis about the social issues, political contexts, and well-being affecting different racial/ethnic communities in MA.

Amplify Latinx: "Inventory of Latinx-serving and Latinx-led Non-Profit and Civic Organizations in Massachusetts"

Amplify Latinx, Greater Boston Latino Network, and the Gastón Institute are partners in a project to develop an inventory of the currently existing non-profit and civic organizations in Massachusetts led by Latinx or serving Latinx populations. If your organization primarily serves Latinx communities or is led (executive director/ board of directors) by Latinx, please contact the Associate Director of the Gastón Institute, Dr. Fabián Torres-Ardila.

Boston Public Schools: "TAG & Alerta"

The Talented and Gifted Latino (TAG) Program and ALERTA are specifically designed to support Latino students and English learners through a combination of project-based classroom practices and a learning environment that fosters students' cultural pride and civic engagement in a five-week accelerated summer learning program at UMass Boston. For more information, contact the outreach coordinators Leidy Quiceno and Angel Cosme, Jr.
We appreciate your generous support!

DONATE NOW

Meet our Research Collaborators

New semester, new young promising talent!

We are always excited to receive new collaborators:

We are delighted to welcome to our staff Bianca Ortiz, Celine Voyard, Laura Lopez and Luidgi Lalanne!

Hall of Fame

It would not be the same without them!

This section highlights some of our most amazing collaborators.

- **Research Associate**
  
  **Tim Sieber**
  
  Tim is a professor of anthropology at UMass Boston since 1974. He has been a long time supporter of the Gastón Institute since its inception, and he has been involved with several institutes, centers and community organizations. He is an expert in urban issues, education, child welfare, gentrification, community and urban development, environmental problems and multicultural relations, Tim currently serves on the Institute’s Faculty Advisory Board.

- **National Scholar**
  
  **Xavier Medina Vidal**
  
  Xavier is the Diane D. Blair Professor of Latino Studies and an Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of New Mexico. His research and teaching interests incorporate elements of Latin American and U.S. Latina/o Studies with a focus on questions related to identity, institutions, and transnationalism. Xavier has been awarded by the Gastón Institute with the Andrés Torres Paper Series Award in 2016.
Undergraduate Research Assistant
Antonella Oms-Natali

Antonella is a senior student majoring in Psychology. She is currently conducting qualitative research on the Latino Leadership Opportunity Program (LLOP) evaluations from past students in the program. She will be graduating in May and is from Puerto Rico.

Graduate Research Assistant
Krizia Valentino

Krizia is currently in the Applied Economics Master's program at UMass Boston and works as our data analyst. She has been part of Latinos Unidos, a student organization at UMass Amherst, and she is of a Colombian and Puerto Rican descent.

Board Member
Alvaro Lima

Alvaro Lima is the Director of Research at the Boston Planning Development Agency, where he oversees all decisions related to the planning and execution of the Agency's research agenda, projects and funding initiatives. Alvaro is a former Research Associate at the Gastón Institute, and he has been a member of our Community Advisory Board for several years.

Community Partner
Conexión

"Advancing Latino Leadership" is the goal of this amazing organizations that we have the privilege of partnering with. They are currently working in the XV Cohort of the Mentoring and Leadership Program where established organizations and leaders engage in one-on-one mentoring with Latinx professionals in their mid careers.

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