Our Community by Nery Cruz (2002), commissioned for the inauguration of the Institute’s Center for the Study of Latino Religion
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Horizons is a news publication of the Institute for Latino Studies, written by Elizabeth Station and produced by the Institute’s Communications Group. Design: Jane A. Norton, Creative Solutions; photography: Matt Cashore, Cheryl Kelly, and Alan Pogue.
From the Director

The future of Notre Dame is *mestizo*. So declares the Institute for Latino Studies’ recent strategic plan, which sets our course for the next decade.

*Mestizo* people represent the historical, biological, cultural, and spiritual union of different communities. Their very existence brings into being a new humanity. So to say that Notre Dame’s future is *mestizo* means acknowledging that the University is changing—partly because Latinos are here but mostly because our country and the entire world are changing in this direction as well.

Our strategic plan is ambitious. Over ten years, it calls for the Institute to recruit talented faculty, to establish thriving academic programs, to help Notre Dame enroll a student population that reflects national demographics, and to integrate Latino studies fully within the rest of the University.

We’re well on our way to accomplishing those goals. In 2003 we launched Notre Dame’s first-ever undergraduate program in Latino studies with a new academic minor. Adding a major and graduate programs in Latino studies will eventually follow as part of a concerted, long-term effort to attract new students and faculty. We’ve been blessed to have the support of key leaders at the University as we move ahead.

Beyond the campus, through each of its five units, the Institute is increasing its national profile and impact. Thanks to the Latino Ecclesial and Pastoral Concerns unit, we’re hosting a national gathering of Catholic Latino doctoral students who are working on theology degrees around the country. Our Center for the Study of Latino Religion is spearheading a major study of Latino congregations and disseminating the findings nationwide. Researchers in the Institute’s Border and Inter-American Affairs unit have begun a series of studies on Latino immigration that use critical but hitherto untapped national data.

That’s not all. The Inter-University Program for Latino Research (IUPLR), an 18-member consortium with headquarters at Notre Dame, has opened new offices in Washington, DC, that will strengthen our connection to the national policy community. Closer to home, our Metropolitan Chicago Initiative is undertaking a seminal survey of Chicago-area Latino households that can serve as a model for similar studies elsewhere in the United States.

Recent studies indicate that one in three of Chicago’s school-age children is Latino. That fact and other compelling data prove to us, almost daily, something we have known for a while: The future is *mestizo*, and the future is here.

Gilberto Cárdenas
Julián Samora Chair in Latino Studies
Assistant Provost and Director
ND Launches Minor in Latino Studies

It’s official—the University of Notre Dame now offers an academic minor in Latino studies. Beginning in the fall of 2003, students may take courses towards the minor in conjunction with any undergraduate major.

“The minor is designed to prepare both Latino and non-Latino students for a myriad of professional settings,” says Yolanda Lizardi Marino, who became the Institute’s director of academic affairs in August 2002. “As an academic program that emphasizes interdisciplinary and comparative approaches to the study of US Latinos, the minor will train our graduates to serve an increasingly diverse society.”

According to director Gilberto Cárdenas, “Notre Dame’s approval of the minor constitutes a significant step toward the formation of premier academic programs in Latino studies at the University. It also places us alongside other prestigious institutions that have institutionalized similar programs.”

When the Institute was founded in 1999, its mandate included creating new academic programs at the University. Creation of the minor builds upon the intellectual tradition of Julián Samora, a distinguished professor of sociology from 1959 to 1985, who started the Mexican American Graduate Studies program at Notre Dame. That program trained more than 50 Latino scholars and lasted until Samora’s retirement.

Until now, no formal undergraduate program in Latino studies has existed at Notre Dame.

To pursue the minor, students take fifteen credit hours of Latino studies courses. These include an introductory course, three elective classes, and a practicum during the senior year that includes experiential work in the Latino community. Fluency in Spanish is encouraged but not required. Overall, the training is designed to prepare graduates for work in many fields and for graduate and professional school.

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New Latino Studies Minor
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Lizardi Marino coordinates the minor, working closely with faculty who teach Latino studies courses in anthropology, art history, English, history, political science, sociology, theology, and other departments.

New faculty hires at Notre Dame should expand academic offerings in the future. By the 2005–06 academic year the Institute hopes to establish a major in Latino studies and, eventually, graduate-level programs.

New Publications Available

Meeting its mission to disseminate new research on Latinos, the Institute has launched two new publications. The first, *Interim Reports*, is a series of papers showcasing work in progress by Institute authors and research partners in our community of interest. The second, *Latino Research @ ND*, is a series of policy briefs, research summaries, and short data presentations.

Both *Interim Reports* and *Latino Research @ ND* are available in print and web form. For news about these and other Institute publications, click on the ‘Publications’ link at the Institute’s web site, www.nd.edu/~latino.

New Fellowship Draws Top Students

Graduate students doing doctoral work in Latino studies now have access to major financial support at Notre Dame.

The *Joseph L. Gaia Distinguished Fellowship in Latino Studies*, established in 2002, provides funding for students pursuing PhDs in any relevant discipline.

The first recipient of the award was *Robert Portada*, a political science doctoral student working on issues of democratization and human rights, with attention to political and economic reform in Cuba.

*Evelyn Boria-Rivera*, who has enrolled in the English Department’s doctoral program to study Latino/a and ethnic minority literatures in the United States, earned the fellowship in 2003.

Both Latino and non-Latino students are eligible for the Gaia Fellowships, which seek to attract individuals of outstanding academic background to the University. The award covers four years of tuition and a stipend.
Latino Student Enrollment Rises

Notre Dame will make history in fall 2003 when it welcomes the largest number of Latino students in a first-year class at the University. The new freshman class includes 175 Latinos, up from 152 who enrolled in 2002.

The surge in Latino enrollment resulted from several factors, according to Gilbert J. Martinez, assistant director of undergraduate admissions and Hispanic recruitment coordinator. One is that on-line applications are making it easier for students to apply to all colleges; another is that favorable national press steered more applicants toward Notre Dame.

Both the quantity and quality of Latino applicants is high. “We are attracting the best now,” Martinez says. The University makes a concerted effort to woo outstanding Hispanic students from both public and private high schools around the country. Current Notre Dame undergrads make telephone calls to potential candidates for admission early in the process, and Latino alumni contact them after they’re admitted to encourage them to consider the University.

Martinez also makes frequent visits to predominantly Hispanic schools in Texas to talk with potential applicants and their families. Three messages he repeatedly tries to convey are that students can afford a Notre Dame education, that attending college far from home isn’t as difficult as they might think, and that if they’re qualified enough to be admitted, they will thrive academically.

“What really interests me is bringing in the students who would be first-generation,” Martinez says. “It’s our responsibility as an institution to take note of the students who have done well in high school but may not have a sense of the opportunities available to them at a place like Notre Dame.”

With the arrival of the Class of 2007, Latinos now constitute nearly eight percent of undergraduate enrollment. “My personal goal is to see that the representation of Hispanics on campus is similar to their representation in society,” says Martinez.
For the first time in its history Notre Dame has named a Latino to serve as an officer of the University. J. Roberto Gutiérrez, a television executive from San Antonio, Texas, became vice president for public affairs and communication in late 2002.

Gutiérrez is best known as the cofounder of the Hispanic Telecommunications Network (HTN), where he created and produced Nuestra Familia, a weekly television series for Latino Catholics. He has also worked as a media consultant to numerous Catholic organizations and produced award-winning documentaries for PBS, ABC, and UNIVISIÓN networks.

At Notre Dame his responsibilities include advancing the University’s image and interests through communications and marketing. He also directs media, governmental, and community relations efforts.

Raised in a close-knit Mexican American family and educated in Catholic schools, as a youth Gutiérrez was aware of the Notre Dame mystique. He attended college closer to home, at St. Mary’s University, but hopes to find new ways to “tell the Notre Dame story” so that minority students and their parents around the country believe a university education is within their reach.

“Listening to the administration and the Board of Trustees, there is a huge expectation and promise in Notre Dame’s ability to be a national and international voice for the Latino community,” Gutiérrez says.

Encouraging

“I’m here to tell you that each and every one of you can make an impact on someone’s life.” With these words Rodolfo “Rudy” Monterrosa welcomed participants at Sueños sin fronteras: Making College Dreams a Reality, a March 2003 conference to support the educational aspirations of area Latino youth.

Monterrosa, a local attorney and 2001 graduate of Notre Dame Law School, was the keynote speaker for the two-day event, now in its second year. Entirely initiated, planned, and run by Notre Dame students, the conference brings South Bend high school and eighth grade students to campus to learn more about the realities of college. The lead organizers for the 2003 Sueños conference were Melody González and Adarely Trejo, both sophomores, and some 40 volunteers played a part.

“Many of our ND Latino students attribute a specific event or role model in their lives to the fact that they made it to Notre Dame,” said Carmen Macharaschwili, programs and public
relations coordinator at the Institute, which cosponsored the conference with the Center for Social Concerns. “And now, they feel the need to provide that kind of experience to others.”

The messages of workshops, panels, and presentations at *Sueños sin Fronteras* were clear. Finish high school. Go on to college. Come back home after graduation and make a difference, because, as Monterrosa put it, “there’s a lot of work to be done here, especially in the Latino community.”

A presentation by Fred Licón, a political science graduate student, unraveled kids’ preconceived notions about college. The first in his own family to study beyond high school, Licón told participants that regardless of their interests, higher education is an investment that pays for itself. Latinos who leave home to attend college in a new place not only learn from but contribute to their classes. “You have a wealth of experience and something exciting—a diversity of thought and background that you bring to the classroom,” he said.

*Sueños sin fronteras* will continue as an annual event, but organizers hope that it can eventually develop into a year-round mentoring program. After just two days on campus, participants grow close to each other and to the college students who make the experience possible. “It needs to extend beyond the one weekend, somehow,” said Macharaschwili. “Kids can feel when somebody really has their true interests at heart.”
Faculty Fellows Enhance Research, Teaching, and Outreach

Fr. Don McNeill, CSC, founding director of Notre Dame’s Center for Social Concerns, has joined the Institute’s Metropolitan Chicago Initiative as a senior fellow for pastoral and social concerns. Fr. McNeill will help integrate the Institute’s work with that of faith-based organizations in the area, forging links between Notre Dame and the local community.

Refugio I. Rochín, a noted scholar and leader in higher education, became an Institute senior fellow in September 2002 and also served as the associate director and representative for the Inter-University Program for Latino Research (IUPLR) in Washington, DC. Previously he was the founding director of the Smithsonian Center for Latino Initiatives. He has published over a hundred articles, book chapters, and other academic writings.

Karen Woodrow-Lafield, the new director of the Institute’s Border and Interamerican Affairs unit, is a sociologist and demographer known for publications on undocumented migration, census coverage, emigration, immigration policy, and incorporation. Her research has chronicled two decades of changes in unauthorized migration and policy implications. From 1995 to 1997 she was an invited member of the Mexico–United States Binational Migration Study, coauthoring “The Quantification of Migration between Mexico and the United States.”

Accomplished faculty from around the country came to teach and pursue research projects at the Institute in 2002 and 2003. They included Francisco Aragón, who will also assist with the Institute’s book series as an editorial consultant. He is the founding editor of Dánta, a poetry journal whose current issue (for which the Institute was the principal sponsor) features a section on emerging Latino/a poets. The Institute also welcomed visiting associate professor David Badillo, a historian focusing on the US Latino experience and Latin America. He taught two courses, “Latinos in the United States” and “Latinos and Christianity,” in spring 2003. Prior to that he was a visiting associate professor at Brooklyn College and an assistant professor at the University of Illinois, Chicago. He recently completed a book on Latinos and urban Catholicism, and his other scholarly work has focused on Latinos in the Midwest, including Mexican American religious identity in Chicago.

Fr. Kenneth G. Davis, OFM, Conv. will be a visiting fellow at the Center for the Study of Latino Religion in fall 2003. A scholar of religion among US Latinos, he is associate professor and
Guillermo Grenier was a visiting faculty fellow at the Institute and a visiting professor in the Department of Economics during spring 2003. An economist, she taught “Latinos, Wealth Inequality and Asset-Building Policies” at Notre Dame. Her published research focuses on credit and loan accessibility issues in US manufacturing, women’s status in the US economy, Latina entrepreneurial behavior, and women and minority small business activities. She is currently working on a book concerning Latinos, wealth inequality, and public policy.

Other visiting faculty members will teach Latino studies courses in the coming academic year. They include

**Amelia Malagamba Ansótegui,** an assistant professor of art history from the University of Texas at Austin, who will offer a course on “Chicanas in the Visual Arts” in fall 2003. The curator of numerous Latino and Latin American art exhibits, she focuses her scholarly work on contemporary Chicano, Mexican, and border visual culture and art.

**Ivan Orozco,** a visiting fellow at Notre Dame’s Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, will teach “Historical Memories and the Developments Bridging Latino and Latin American Identities” in fall 2003. He is a political scientist from the National University of Colombia whose research looks at democracy, human rights, and peace in that country.
Faculty Bring Literary Perspectives

Two new assistant professors hired in the Department of English, Theresa Delgadillo and Javier Rodriguez, began teaching Latino studies courses in fall 2002. Professor Delgadillo earned her PhD from the University of California, Los Angeles, in 2000, where her dissertation focused on spirituality in contemporary Chicano/a fiction, drama, and film. Her areas of interest include postcolonial, feminist, and borderlands theories; cultural production in the Americas; and multiethnic literature of the Americas. She taught “The Politics of Memory in Contemporary Latino/a Literature” and “Women in the Americas” in her first year at Notre Dame and will offer “Icons and Action Figures in US Latino/a Literature” in fall 2003.

Professor Rodriguez taught “Latino Literature and the American Vision” in fall 2002. He is a specialist in the literature of the US southwest and his research interests include nineteenth- and twentieth-century US literature, early colonial literature of North America, and Anglo-Hispanic cultural interactions in literature. He received his PhD from Harvard University in 2000, writing a doctoral dissertation on literary nationalisms of the war between the United States and Mexico, 1846–48.

Cyraina Johnson-Roullier, an associate professor in Notre Dame’s Department of English, is collaborating with the Institute on a number of projects. She directs the Americas Working Group, an interdisciplinary seminar of scholars from seven departments whose work explores issues of ethnic diversity and the notion of the New World. They recently won funding from the Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts for the project “Re-Encountering the Americas: Ethnic and/or Racial Identities in the New World Context.” In the coming academic year the group will sponsor visiting speakers, plan for a major conference, and seek funding for a research and visiting fellowship program.
Institute Welcomes New Staff

Several new staff members joined the Institute in the past year. **Rebecca Burwell**, who is completing a doctorate in sociology at Loyola University, has joined the Center for the Study of Latino Religion as a postdoctoral research associate. Her work will include a survey of Latino congregations in Chicago. **Brookes Ebetsch**, a 2002 Notre Dame graduate in art and Spanish, is working as a research associate to director Gilberto Cárdenas. **Brett Keck**, senior technical support consultant/analyst, is a 2001 ND computer engineering graduate. He coordinates all aspects of information technology at the Institute, replacing Christopher Ahn who left the area to attend law school. **Jennifer Laware** has been hired as a research support assistant, providing data management and information technology support to the Institute and IUPLR. **Marisa Márquez**, a first-year graduate student in theology, works as a development associate for the Latino Ecclesial and Pastoral Concerns unit.

**Doug Franson**, former assistant director of sponsored programs at the Graduate School, now serves as the Institute’s director of operations. He holds an MBA from Indiana University and a BBA from Notre Dame.

The Institute has also hired a director of academic affairs, **Yolanda Lizardi Marino**, who formerly served as assistant to the dean and director of the Office of Academic Programs and Services at the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy at the University of Michigan. Prior to that she was the coordinator for the Hispanic American Student Services Component in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, where the office she created developed into Michigan’s Latino studies program.

**Timothy Ready** has replaced Philip García as the Institute’s director of research. Before coming to Notre Dame, he was a senior program officer in the Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education at the National Academies in Washington, DC. He holds a PhD in anthropology and has researched and written about Latino health and education issues.

**Martha Zurita**, senior research analyst for the Metropolitan Chicago Initiative, directs the Institute’s project to measure minority educational achievement in public schools. She was previously director of policy and research at the Latino Education Alliance and El Valor Corporation in Chicago. She holds a PhD in educational policy studies from the University of Illinois.
Through its 18 members’ centers based at academic institutions around the country to its headquarters at Notre Dame and a new office in the heart of Washington, DC, the Inter-University Program for Latino Research (IUPLR) is building a national network to support Latino scholarship.

In March 2003 the program opened an office in the University of California’s Washington Center, located at 1608 Rhode Island Avenue, NW. From this venue, IUPLR aims to bring attention to the research and scholarship of the consortium’s member organizations and place them closer to leaders advocating for Latino communities around the country. Senior Fellow and Associate Director Refugio I. Rochín was the first head of the new DC office.

“Washington, DC is both the country’s political capital and the center of Latino leadership in organizations like the National Council of La Raza, the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF), ASPIRA, the Hispanic Arts Foundation, the Pew Hispanic Center, the Hispanic Association for Colleges and Universities (HACU), and many others,” said Rochín. “By giving IUPLR a stronger presence here, we hope to connect our member centers with federal and private initiatives focusing on Latinos and to increase our access to key funders, policymakers, and opinion leaders.”

In addition to regular meetings of the directors, IUPLR member centers keep in touch via a monthly electronic newsletter.

Meanwhile, IUPLR’s work in the past year has progressed on many fronts:

An eminent group of senior scholars from the program’s Latino Politics working group has designed a new national survey of Latino political attitudes, opinions, and behaviors. Focus groups were conducted in mid-2003 to help researchers develop a questionnaire for the larger Latino National Survey, planned for 2004. The Annie E. Casey Foundation, and the Hewlett and Ford Foundations have underwritten the project in its initial phase. Participating scholars are also seeking funding to support the collection of a massive body of data.

**IUPLR Raises National Profile**
on a host of factors—such as population density, economic and social conditions, and the political representation situation in places where Latinos live—in order to examine the importance of context on attitudes and behaviors.

The working group on the Well-Being of Children and Families in the United States–Mexico Border Region met in San Diego and Tijuana in April 2003. Chaired by Raquel Márquez (University of Texas, San Antonio), the interdisciplinary group includes ten distinguished Latina scholars from around the country who are interested in creating a national research agenda to address the unique experiences and needs of border-area families. As a first step in the process ‘Las Fronterizas,’ as the working group call themselves, are producing a book manuscript, “Transformation of ‘La Familia’ on the US-Mexican Border Landscape,” to be submitted to the Institute’s series with Notre Dame Press. For more information see http://colfa.utsa.edu/fronterizas.

The Prevenir es Vivir HIV/AIDS awareness campaign—a joint project of IUPLR, the Institute, and the Office of Minority Health, a division of the US Department of Health and Human Services—continues to promote health education about Latinos and AIDS. Community artists worked closely with the project to produce a remarkable set of posters for use in AIDS awareness efforts. They can be viewed and ordered through the project’s website at www.contrasida-aids.org. In Chicago the Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum has developed an AIDS education project aimed at Latino youth in the Pilsen and Little Village neighborhoods, in collaboration with IUPLR and the Institute. The partnership features radio spots, a traveling exhibit, art workshops, and youth art competitions. In June 2003 the University of Texas at El Paso cosponsored a conference on AIDS treatment and prevention targeting both sides of the US-Mexican border. continued on next page
IUPLR Working Groups*

**Latino Politics**
Luis Ricardo Fraga, Stanford University  
John A. García, University of Arizona  
Rodney Hero, University of Notre Dame  
(co-principal investigator)  
Michael Jones-Correa, Cornell University  
Valerie Martínez-Ebers,  
Texas Christian University  
Gary M. Segura, University of Iowa

**Well-Being of Children and Families in the United States–Mexico Border Region**
Ana Marie Argilagos, Annie E. Casey Foundation  
Támara Casso, University of Texas, San Antonio (research assistant)  
Nancy López, University of New Mexico  
Amelia Malagamba, University of Texas, Austin  
Raquel R. Márquez, University of Texas, San Antonio (chair)  
Norma Ojeda, San Diego State University/Colegio de la Frontera Norte  
Yolanda Padilla, University of Texas, Austin  
Belinda Reyes, Public Policy Institute of California  
Barbara Robles, University of Texas, Austin  
Harriett Romo, University of Texas, San Antonio

**Latina Spirituality**
Patricia Baquedano-López,  
University of California, Berkeley  
Miryam Bujanda, San Antonio, Texas  
Yrena Cervantes,  
California State University, Northridge  
Gloria Loya, Jesuit School of Theology, Berkeley  
Daisy L. Machado, Texas Christian University  
Amelia Malagamba, University of Texas, Austin  
Lara Medina,  
California State University, Northridge  
Renee Moreno,  
California State University, Northridge (chair)  
Mary Pardo,  
California State University, Northridge  
Olga Villa Parra, Indianapolis  
Rev. Virgilio Elizondo,  
University of Notre Dame (consultant)  
Timothy Matovina,  
University of Notre Dame (consultant)  
Rev. Arturo Pérez-Rodríguez, St. Frances de Sales Parish, Chicago (consultant)

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IUPLR Working Group Progress

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What are the best practices to ensure that Latinos have access to health care under state and federal programs? IUPLR is attempting to answer that question with the **Access to Health Care** project, funded by the Office of Minority Health of the Department of Health and Human Services. The project will look specifically at Latino and immigrant access to the Medicaid and S-CHIPS programs, in the context of diminishing fiscal resources for health care. Timothy Ready and data analyst Wei Sun are working from IUPLR headquarters in collaboration with Adela de la Torre (University of California, Davis). Meanwhile, IUPLR is also developing a new working group on **Health and Mental Health**, to be led by Gerardo Gonzalez (California State University, San Marcos).

Participants in the working group on **Latina Spirituality**, coordinated by Renee Moreno (California State University, Northridge), will contribute chapters to an anthology on the role that spirituality plays in the everyday lives of Latina women and its impact on family and community life.

Partnering with the US Census Bureau, IUPLR held its second annual **Census Workshop** at Notre Dame, July 28–30, 2003. The workshop’s goal was to prepare researchers and advanced graduate students to use Census data to address Latino social and economic issues. Participants learned (1) to generate statistical profiles for places and areas where Latinos are settling and concentrated and (2) to develop data sets for the analysis of social and economic conditions of Latinos. IUPLR became a Census Information Center (CIC) in 2000, part of

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* Advised by Gilberto Cárdenas, University of Notre Dame
a nationwide effort to give underserved communities better access to Census data. The contact for this center is Sung Chun at IUPLR headquarters.

Funding from the Annie E. Casey Foundation has helped to launch **Border Kids Count**—a unique effort to measure the educational, social, economic, and physical well-being of children in the United States–Mexico border region. The project seeks to enhance local and national discussion of issues affecting children’s futures in 29 counties along the border. IUPLR research director Timothy Ready coordinates the project, in collaboration with Yolanda Padilla (University of Texas, Austin). Once complete, data will be made available in print and on the web at [www.aecf.org/kidscout](http://www.aecf.org/kidscout).

Detailed information about these and other projects is available on IUPLR’s website at [www.nd.edu/~iuplr](http://www.nd.edu/~iuplr).
The Institute’s Metropolitan Chicago Initiative (MCI), launched in 2000, continues to work on many fronts to serve and study Latino communities in the Chicago area. Current efforts center on research, education issues, and community capacity-building—particularly in the suburbs of Berwyn and Cicero, Illinois.

Who are Chicago’s Latinos and where do they live? How are they faring? What contributions do they make to the economy, to suburban communities, and to city neighborhoods? What are their hopes and plans for the future?

With several research efforts, the Institute is seeking to answer these and other important questions.

The Chicago-Area Latino Household Survey will provide an up-to-date, comprehensive and forward-looking portrait of Latino families in the six-county metropolitan area. The project will conduct extensive surveys with members of both Latino and non-Latino households in summer 2003. Once complete, the study will be among a handful of wide-ranging analyses ever conducted on the Latino experience in the United States and the first of its kind for the Chicago area.

A second project, Measuring Minority Education Gap, focuses on developing a statewide information system on the status of minority students, especially those from Latino backgrounds in K–12 public education in Illinois. Directed by Martha Zurita, the project has generated the beginnings of a database on the achievement gap and the group is in the process of producing two reports. The first, on Latino population growth in Illinois and in Chicago, calls attention to Census data indicating that one in five school-aged children in Cook County is Latino. The second looks at Illinois public education from a minority perspective. When complete, these and other publications will be available at www.nd.edu/~latino.
Cook County, encompassing the city of Chicago and surrounding suburbs, now has the fourth largest Latino population of any county in the United States. While Latinos increased by 35 percent between 1990 and 2000, little is known about this quickly growing population. **Cook County’s Changing Landscape**, a third MCI research endeavor, analyzes data from Census 2000 and tracks specific types of demographic change in 77 community areas and suburban townships. Nonprofits, public agencies, foundations, and others interested in improving the well-being of disadvantaged groups in the county will soon be able to access the data at a user-friendly website.

MCI’s current research agenda also includes histories of Chicago Latino families, a series of case studies on Latino political organizations, a study of the city’s immigrant labor force, and a report on local governance in Berwyn and Cicero. Major funding for the Institute’s work in the Chicago area comes from the MacNeal Health Foundation, the Joyce Foundation, and the Chicago Community Trust.

**Innovative education project meets fundamental needs**

Sponsored by the Mexican government, **Plazas Comunitarias** is an innovative distance-learning program that makes it easier for Spanish-speaking immigrants around the United States to advance their education. Whether they need basic literacy classes, primary education, or a chance to earn their high school and college degrees, Plazas Comunitarias seeks to help. In June 2003 the Institute teamed up with the Consulate-General of Mexico, Interfaith Leadership Project, Instituto Progreso Latino, and Morton College to offer the Plazas program in Cicero and Berwyn.

According to a 2002 Institute report, *Bordering the Mainstream: A Needs Assessment of Latinos in Berwyn and Cicero, Illinois*, only 52 percent of the area’s Latino population have finished high school. Residents identified education as a top concern. In response, the Institute is working closely with local organizations to improve educational opportunities. Through Plazas Comunitarias residents will have access to adult literacy classes as well as courses in Mexican culture transmitted via satellite. The Consulate-General will provide books, materials, training, and a satellite dish for distance learning. 

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Innovative education project meets fundamental needs continued from previous page

“The Plazas project meets such a fundamental need for adult education within the Latino and Mexican immigrant communities in Chicago,” said Sylvia Puente, MCI director. “The fact that we’re working in partnership with key institutions makes the potential for what we can accomplish all the more promising.”

The Institute has also collaborated with community stakeholders in Cicero to develop a plan for improving public education in the town, where 92 percent of elementary school children and 71 percent of high school students are Latino. With local groups, MCI organized two education forums that drew hundreds of participants. Together they drafted a plan to strengthen Cicero schools, where overcrowded classrooms, language barriers, poverty, and local politics have been endemic problems. The next step will be implementing the community’s blueprint for change.

“While a lot of our work is in Berwyn and Cicero, our reputation is growing, and Chicago policymakers are seeking us out to brief and inform them about the region-wide Latino community,” Puente says. The Chicago office frequently receives requests for presentations from local and regional organizations. Topics have included changing demographics, Mexican immigration, and Latino educational issues. Area organizations are hungry for the information, according to Puente, as they try to adjust to the tremendous demographic shifts of the last decade.

Discovering La Comunidad
For Notre Dame students who want to learn from and contribute to the Chicago-area Latino community, the Hispanic Leadership Intern Program provides a unique training ground. Jointly sponsored by the Institute and Notre Dame’s Center for Social Concerns for the last three years, the program sent eight student interns to work for partner organizations in la comunidad this year.

In 2003 interns spent eight weeks at ACCESS Health Network, the Interfaith Leadership Project, Casa Juan Diego Youth Center, Little Village Development Corporation, and the Resurrection Project. They helped organize community health fairs and taught ESL classes. They ran summer camps for kids and contributed to projects to improve community schools.

Participating students earn academic credit for their work and by reading, keeping journals and writing papers in which they reflect on their internship experiences. For many the program is life-changing—and puts them on a path to service that extends far beyond the summer in Chicago.

The mural at right is one of many found in the Pilsen area of Chicago that celebrate Mexican culture and honor its struggles.
Honoring Guadalupe

As both a priest and a scholar, visiting professor of theology and LEPC member Rev. Virgilio Elizondo has long celebrated the Virgin of Guadalupe. Members of the Notre Dame community packed the Basilica of the Sacred Heart on campus last December 12 for a Mass honoring Our Lady of Guadalupe. A growing number of students participate in the annual liturgy, which Elizondo leads in English and Spanish. Along with theology professors Timothy Matovina and Maxwell Johnson, Elizondo also participated in a panel discussion on the significance of December 12. He called the Virgin’s apparition in 1531 “the beautiful beginning of Christianity in America” and a visionary request “for a hemisphere without borders.”

Hispanic Heritage Award

The Hispanic Heritage Awards honor Latinos who have made an impact on the United States through career accomplishments and community involvement. Institute Fellow Rev. Virgilio Elizondo received the Hispanic Heritage Award in September 2002 for his work in education. He is pictured here with honorees and presenters at the awards ceremony, held at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC.

From left to right are Hispanic Heritage Award presenters Carlos Ponce and Roselyn Sánchez, the author Julia Alvarez, founding publisher of People en Español Lisa Quiroz, Olympic gold medalist Derek Parra, Fr. Virgilio Elizondo, and recording artist Ricky Martin.
Prominent theologians, church leaders, pastoral workers, and activists came together at the Institute in November 2002 to examine the Church’s role in understanding and addressing poverty. The conference, entitled “The Option for the Poor in Christian Theology,” included more than 700 participants from the United States, Latin America, Asia, Africa, and Europe.

Among the speakers were Rev. Gustavo Gutiérrez, OP, John Cardinal O’Hara Professor of Theology at Notre Dame; David Tracy, professor of religion at the University of Chicago Divinity School; Rev. Virgilio Elizondo, visiting professor of theology and Latino studies at Notre Dame; and Elsa Támez of the Universidad Bíblica Latinoamericana in Costa Rica.

Fifteen young theologians from around the world also spoke on the final day of the meeting, receiving a cross and a commission from Rev. Gutiérrez. He urged them to return to their countries “not to be the voice of the poor but to join their voices with all those who wish to eliminate poverty and injustice.”

“We wanted to build on the life and work of Gustavo Gutiérrez, who is widely recognized as the father of liberation theology,” said conference organizer Rev. Daniel Groody, CSC, assistant professor of theology and director of Latino Ecclesial and Pastoral Concerns (LEPC) at the Institute. “For two reasons the event was unprecedented: First, it deepened our understanding of the complex causes of poverty and reminded us to consider not only spiritual but economic, cultural, racial, ethnic, and gender dimensions that shape and influence the reality of the poor. Second, the conference inspired the next generation to continue the work of foundational thinkers in liberation theology and to build new networks of younger leadership for the future.”

Along with the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops, more than twenty Notre Dame institutes and departments cosponsored the conference.

Groody is editing three books that grew out of the conference—one with writings by senior theologians, another by junior theologians, and an interdisciplinary volume. The Institute also plans to organize a working group of young theologians from around the world that may meet annually.
The Center for the Study of Latino Religion (CSLR), founded at the Institute in 2002, is well into its second year of work under the dynamic leadership of director Edwin I. Hernández. “Our goal is to build a strong foundation for the center by partnering with key researchers and organizations and by producing original scholarship on the role that religion plays for Latinos,” Hernández says. “The audience for our work is both academic and applied, since good research can help train leaders, strengthen congregations, and guide the work of funders who want to invest in the Latino community.”

The Center kicked off its efforts with an inaugural celebration and symposium, “Faith at Work in the Latino Community,” in January 2003. James Towey, Director of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, gave the keynote address at the event, which also highlighted new research. Rev. Virgilio Elizondo of the University of Notre Dame, Rev. Jesse Miranda of Vanguard University, and Gastón Espinosa of Northwestern University presented “Counterintuitive Findings on Latino Religions in American Public Life.” David Sikkink of Notre Dame unveiled the results of a study entitled “Religion Matters: Predicting Schooling Success among Latino Youth.” Copies of both papers are available at www.nd.edu/~cslr.

Work continues on the Hispanic Church Research Initiative, a major project funded by The Pew Charitable Trusts. In mid-2003 CSLR researchers completed interviews with 30 Latino faculty members and a survey of over 1,000 Latino seminary students at academic institutions around the country. The study aims to track Latino faculty satisfaction in academia and identify ways to increase Latino students’ access to and retention in theological education.

A new grant from the Louisville Institute is allowing the center to conduct an

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in-depth survey of Latino congregations in the Chicago metropolitan area. To gauge the impact of local churches, the **Chicago Latino Congregation Study** will pay particular attention to the factors that contribute to congregational growth and vitality, their social impact, and the role of church leaders in this process. In Philadelphia the center is collaborating with Dr. Ram Cnaan of the University of Pennsylvania to analyze the results of a recent survey of over 100 different Latino congregations in that city.

Meeting its mission to serve as a national resource center, CSLR is also teaming up with Duke University Divinity School’s “**Pulpit and Pew**” project to produce a report on the status of Latino religious leadership around the country. The study explores definitions of good ministry in Latino contexts and will conclude with a historic, interdenominational summit of Latino pastoral leaders. “These separate groups don’t often work together,” said Hernández, “but our hope is that they’ll identify areas for common efforts.”

Other CSLR activities include evaluating the **Hispanic Capacity Project**, a federally funded initiative of Nueva Esperanza, Inc., one of the largest Latino faith-based community development corporations in the country. Hernández is presently coauthoring two books in progress: **AVANCE: Envisioning a Future for a New Mañana**, a sociological study of Latino Seventh-Day Adventists, and **Reconstructing the Sacred Tower: The Challenges and Opportunities for Latinos in Theological Education**.
Film, art, books, poetry—the Institute sponsored a wide variety of events that brought these and other expressions of Latino culture to Notre Dame in the past year.

Among the highlights was *Looking Out/Looking In*, a film series that shared Latino and Latin American perspectives on a variety of themes at monthly screenings over the course of the academic year. The student group La Alianza and the Kellogg Institute for International Studies cosponsored the series, which provoked lively discussion of issues from both sides of the border.


Poets from around the country gathered in November 2002 for the Latino Poets conference. Cosponsored with Notre Dame’s Creative Writing Program, English Department, and others, the event featured three days of readings and conversation with poets Francisco Alarcón, Raúl Barrientos, Lisa Chávez, Maurice Kilwein Guevara, Aleida Rodríguez, and Gary Soto. According to conference organizer Orlando Menes, the participants shared “not only an artistic impulse but a sense of social responsibility to give testimony to the various lives and experiences of Latinos.”
Annex Creates Space for Community Efforts

Location is everything, they say, and the Institute is now working from two locations to connect with the Notre Dame campus and the community beyond it. In April 2003 four staff members moved into offices at the Institute for Latino Studies Annex located at 1024 Notre Dame Avenue. The modest building is just three blocks south of the campus, in the heart of South Bend’s ‘near northwest’ neighborhood.

Occupying the Annex was the first step. The next will be raising the funds to renovate the building. The space supports the Institute’s community outreach initiatives and art-related activities as well as other ongoing programs.

“The Institute’s main work will continue on campus and our research efforts will expand in Chicago and throughout the country,” said director Gilberto Cárdenas. “Meanwhile, at the Annex we have a great space to develop new, collaborative programs, mostly related to the arts, that affirm our commitment to the South Bend community.”
The Interpretation and Representation of Latino Cultures: Research and Museums was the title of a national conference held at the Smithsonian Institution in November 2002. The event convened scholars in Latino studies, archivists and museum professionals to examine the current status of research and educational literature on the interpretation, representation, and documentation of Latino cultures in museums and academic programs within the United States and Puerto Rico. The Rockefeller Foundation, IUPLR, and the University of Notre Dame co-funded the conference, which built upon the annual Latino Graduate Training Seminar “Interpreting Latino Cultures: Research and Museums.” The Smithsonian expects to have a website related to conference themes open by September 2003.

From a newly acquired portrait of the Virgin of Guadalupe to an annual gathering for the Day of the Dead, signs of collaboration between Latino Studies and Notre Dame’s Snite Museum of Art are growing. Institute and Snite staff joined forces on several efforts in the past year:

As the museum’s Latino and Latin American collections have expanded, so have the number of Notre Dame students who study Spanish. In response the Institute began to provide funds to train native Spanish-speaking students as museum docents in 2001. Last fall docents Athalia Grazette of Panama and Vanessa Arita of Honduras gave tours in Spanish to 600 Notre Dame students at all levels of fluency. With curator for academic programs Diana Matthias they created bilingual gallery guides with vocabulary lists and historical information on particular works. The program will continue in 2003 and beyond.

Two Chicana artists from East Los Angeles, Margarita Alarcón and Claudia Mercado, joined a community celebration of the Day of the Dead featuring construction of an altar, or ofrenda, in the museum last fall. A workshop for South Bend–area teachers preceded that event, focusing on traditional observance and significance of the holiday. Carmen Macharaschwili, the Institute’s programs and public relations coordinator, collaborates with Snite curator of education Jackie Welsh and Fr. Tom Bednar, CSC, of Campus Ministry to teach campus and community about this important tradition. Hundreds of children visit the museum each year when the ofrenda is
on display, extending the learning into South Bend’s public and parochial schools. The museum expects big crowds for Día de los Muertos in 2003, as a growing number of participants take part in the festivities.

An early eighteenth-century portrait of the Virgin of Guadalupe by an undetermined Mexican artist now graces the museum’s main entrance hall. The painting features the Virgin in a classic pose, surrounded by four smaller scenes that depict her appearances to the Indian Juan Diego. One of the best-preserved images of the period, it was purchased in 2002 with funds from the families of Ignacio (‘52) and Pirri Aranguren and their sons, Luis (‘84), Ignacio (‘85), and Santiago (‘92).

Face to Face is the title of a portrait exhibit that will run at the museum from September 14 to November 16, 2003. Among the featured works is a self-portrait by the French artist Jean Charlot, donated to the Snite by Institute director Gilberto Cárdenas. Long a collector of Charlot’s work, Cárdenas was one of several Notre Dame faculty members to contribute an essay to the book accompanying the exhibit.

Outreach to South Bend schools remains a dynamic element of the Snite–Latino Studies partnership. Jackie Welsh, curator for public programs, has organized numerous workshops with visiting Latino and Latin American artists, sending the artists out to community junior high and high schools. José Juárez, the Institute’s art collections coordinator, has served as a translator.

Additional collaborations are on the drawing board. From January 11 through February 22, 2004, the Museum will sponsor an exhibit of prints by Chicano artist Malaquias Montoya, focusing on the death penalty.
Latino Alumni Exhibit Goes Virtual

The Latino Student at Notre Dame: From Early History to the Modern Experience, 1864–2001 educated hundreds about the presence and contributions of Latinos at Notre Dame. The exhibit appeared in the Institute’s Galería América until January, 2003, and an abbreviated version was on display at the Hesburgh Library until the end of August 2003. Interested viewers can also take a virtual tour at the Institute’s website: www.nd.edu/~latino/ils_latino_exhibit.htm. The web version features interviews with Latino alumni who reflect on their student experiences.

The exhibit fulfilled two important goals for the Institute, according to Carmen Macharaschwili, programs and public relations coordinator. “First, we wanted to honor and recognize our Hispanic alumni. Second, by gathering oral histories from graduates, we contributed to the University’s historical record in a unique way,” she said.

Sections of the exhibit focused on recruitment, student activism, dorm life, and Latino student activities. Testimonies from Notre Dame leaders who have taken an active interest in Latino studies complement the oral histories of graduates. The project also included extensive interviews with Geoff and Carmen Samora, Notre Dame graduates and children of Notre Dame sociology professor Julián Samora.

Above, left: 2002 graduate Anabel Navarro contributes to the memory wall that was part of the Latino Student at Notre Dame exhibit.
Right: Las Tres Marias by Malaquias Montoya, 2001; commissioned by the Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism. The piece was presented at the April 2002 conference "Recovering the US Hispanic Catholic Heritage" cosponsored by the Institute.
Below: Jose ‘Pepe’ Gonzalez poses next to a picture of himself hitchhiking from Notre Dame to his home in Laredo, Texas.