At Home in the World

Reaching out intellectually and geographically

Horizons
Fall 2006
As we approach our eighth year on campus, the Institute for Latino Studies continues to pursue the goal it set out at the very beginning: to prepare new generations of Notre Dame graduates for professional life and leadership roles in society. As the University seeks to equip students with a strong intellectual foundation, the Institute strives to complement that mission by exposing students to multidisciplinary study of the large and diverse US Latino community.

With a growing dedicated staff, the Institute has been able to offer a minor and a supplementary major in Latino studies at Notre Dame and undertake research in areas that go beyond the campus. As a member of the Inter-University Program for Latino Research (IUPLR), the Institute has been able to play a major role in the development of national partnerships.

Through its Metropolitan Chicago Initiative (MCI), the Institute will continue to strengthen regional connections by researching the impact of a growing Latino community on a major metropolitan city. Under the guidance of Institute Fellow Father Don McNeil, csc, Notre Dame students have been able to experience daily life in Chicago’s Latino community through the Hispanic Leadership Internship Program, while providing service to and learning from those in the community.

At home, in partnership with the Snite Museum of Art, the Institute has opened an exhibition entitled Caras vemos, corazones no sabemos: The Human Landscape of Mexican Migration, curated by scholar Amelia Malagamba-Ansótegui. The exhibition not only displays important art but also will help educate students, faculty, staff, and the general public about the important contributions of Mexican migrants to American society. Thanks to the continued generosity of institutions like the Arthur Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, and many more, the Institute for Latino Studies will be able to supply the resources necessary to positively effect change, as we are guided by the vision that knowledge can make a difference in society.

Gilberto Cárdenas
Director
There is a crying need for more mutual understanding.

Speaking to business and church groups in Indiana, attending weekly meetings with the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations, visiting Congressional staffers or dignitaries at embassies in Washington DC, or securing corporate sponsorship for a Latino museum exhibition in Mexico City...Allert Brown-Gort’s duties as the Institute’s associate director extend far beyond the confines of a traditional staff organizer and internal caretaker to those of a national liaison and global diplomat.

“From the beginning we recognized that our vision of Latino studies would entail reaching out from campus in the literal, geographical sense as well as intellectually,” Brown-Gort explains. “When we first discussed founding the Institute, we talked about the necessity of working in Chicago, since it is, in effect, the capital of the Latino Midwest in terms of numbers and influence. The first year we only made limited contacts, but then Notre Dame’s Office of Development introduced us to the new MacNeal Health Foundation [now the Arthur Foundation], and they gave us an incredibly generous grant to study and work with the Latino community—starting in Cicero and Berwyn and then broadening our scope to include the whole metropolitan Chicago area.

“Since the headquarters of the Inter-University Program for Latino Research (IUPLR) had relocated to Notre Dame,” he continues, “the obvious next step was to explore the possibilities of research partnerships with centers and individual scholars across the country.”

This impetus has led to Brown-Gort’s involvement with a number of developmental and multilateral organizations, including the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Organization of American States (OAS) where he and IUPLR National Coordinator Olga Herrera are currently working on an initiative that would provide opportunities for Latino/a students.

In addition to Brown-Gort’s various involvements nationwide, his local efforts include serving on the boards of the Community Foundation of St. Joseph County and the Hispanic Leadership Coalition. His varied responsibilities also sometimes take him out of the country. Having divided his life between Mexico and the United States, he has developed an abundance of personal and professional contacts throughout Latin America. “Although our interest lies with the Latino community in the United States, our focus is, of necessity, broader,” he maintains. “Globalization and transnationalism affect Latinos’ daily lives from far beyond our borders. Therefore, we can only fully capture the Latino experience in the United States by studying Latinos and Latinas both here and in their countries of origin.”

“At a time of fierce contention over immigration reform in the US Congress and throughout the country, there is a crying need for more mutual understanding,” Brown-Gort argues. “The reality is that a large and growing Latino population is here and will eventually become integrated. Our job is to facilitate that process by gathering knowledge and presenting and explaining it in a way that is accessible not only to scholars but also to policymakers, community activists, and the general public.”
Today, 40 million people of Latin American origin call the United States home. By the year 2020 Latinos/as in the United States will number 60 million; in the Americas only Brazil, Mexico, and Colombia have comparable populations. In an effort to build hemispheric relations among future leaders, Espacio de Vinculación, a Mexican nonprofit institution backed by the media outlet Televisa, hosted its annual conference in the United States for the first time and extended its invitation to include 129 of the best US Latino/a and Latin American graduate students and college seniors for an intensive dialogue, joined by outstanding leaders from throughout Latin America and the United States. Four graduate and two undergraduate Notre Dame students were selected to participate in the event, entitled Vanguardia Latina, which coincided with Cinco de Mayo celebrations in Washington DC.

Institute Associate Director Allert Brown-Gort served as a consultant to and moderator of the trilingual event, which encouraged students and speakers to participate in their language of preference. Institute Advisory Council member Raul Romero was instrumental in facilitating the participation of US Ambassador to Mexico Tony Garza and US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, who addressed the group. David Ayon, Raul Rodriguez, and Allert Brown-Gort were consulted as advisors to make sure the event reflected the interests and experiences of US Latinos/as.

With the participation of the Inter-American Developmental Bank and the Organization of American States in DC, Vanguardia Latina marked the first attempt to bring Espacio’s model to the United States and encouraged students and speakers to rethink the common challenges of the Americas. Televisa began Espacio in 1997 and since then the event has united over 150,000 university students across Latin America with hundreds of political, academic, and business leaders to develop and debate issues concerning the inter-American agenda.

Televisa Chairman and CEO Emilio Azcárraga Jean opened this year’s conference by describing it as a “breeder of ideas” and called on Latino/a and Latin American students “to work hard to strengthen areas of commonality and overcome differences.” Brown-Gort echoed this sentiment by emphasizing, “This is a long-term project. We got the best and brightest people we could find to discover commonalities and we expect that many of these contacts will take root.”
Though headquartered at the Institute for Latino Studies at the University Notre Dame, the Inter-University Program for Latino Research (IUPLR) maintains an active office in Washington DC. National Coordinator Olga Herrera assists IUPLR/Institute Director Gilberto Cárdenas and works closely with IUPLR’s 20 member centers to bring national visibility to the consortium. Their work involves promoting research initiatives in progress, increasing outreach and dissemination capabilities, supporting training and education programs, and facilitating fundraising efforts at the federal and private sector levels.

Institute Advisory Council
September 2006 Meeting

Front row (left to right): Ignacio Lozano, Jr., Newport Beach, CA; Rev. Timothy Scully, CSC, Director, Institute for Educational Initiatives, and Professor of Political Science, University of Notre Dame; Robert Lemon, Sammamish, WA; Council Chair Arthur J. Velasquez, President and CEO, Azteca Foods, Inc.

Middle row (left to right): Victor Arias, Jr., Heidrick & Struggles; Peter Villegas, First Vice President, National Manager of Emerging Markets, Washington Mutual; F. Geoffrey Samora, President, Advanced Medical Computing; Julio Casillas, Territory Manager—Cardiac Surgery, Boston Scientific Corporation, and Lesley Casillas; Raul R. Romero, P.E., President and CEO Alliance Consulting Group, LLC.

Back row (left to right): Institute Associate Director Allert Brown-Gort; Sara Martinez Tucker, former President and CEO, Hispanic Scholarship Fund; Olga Villa Parra, Indianapolis, IN; Institute Director Gilberto Cárdenas

Members not shown: William J. Hank, Chairman and CEO, Farnham Investment Group; Enrique Hernandez, Jr., President and CEO, Inter-Con Security Systems, Inc.; Jesús Rangel, Vice President and Director of the Americas, Community Relations, Anheuser-Busch International, Inc.
In addition to providing a presence in the nation’s capital, the IUPLR DC office establishes strategic alliances with national and international organizations to advance the consortium’s mission to increase the Latino intellectual presence in the United States.

IUPLR’s DC office also supports the IUPLR Summer Institute for Latino Public Policy, a yearly program for undergraduate students enrolled in member institutions. The Summer Institute is held in DC and coordinated by the Mauricio Gastón Institute at the University of Massachusetts Boston.

In 2006 the IUPLR DC office partnered with the University of California’s Washington Center and the University of California, Davis’s Washington Program to present an exhibition of the artwork of IUPLR faculty associate and UC Davis Professor Malaquias Montoya. Other recent partnerships and collaborations include those with the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute, the National Council of La Raza, the Congressional Hispanic Leadership Institute, and the Smithsonian Institution. Go to http://www.nd.edu/~iuplr/ for more information.
In June a group of Latino/a religious leaders from Chicago and South Bend traveled to Washington DC for the National Hispanic Prayer Breakfast (NHPB). Organized by Esperanza USA, the event drew 700 Hispanic clergy and community leaders from across the country to the capital, where they were addressed by Senators Hillary Rodham Clinton, Ted Kennedy, Harry Reid, Thomas Carper, and John McCain and by President George W. Bush.

The NHPB was initiated in 2002 to bring Hispanic clergy together in prayer for our nation and to provide an opportunity for Hispanic faith leaders to meet with their elected officials to advocate on behalf of the Hispanic community in the United States.

The event included a visit to Capitol Hill, where an estimated 200 Hispanic clergy spent an afternoon visiting their representatives to talk with them about the importance of a just and compassionate immigration policy. Rebecca Burwell, an attendee and faculty specialist with the Center for the Study of Latino Religion (CSLR), noted, “It was great to see such a formidable presence in the offices of Luis Gutierrez, Barak Obama, Dick Durban, and others—especially those senators and representatives who need to hear from the Latino faith community that immigration is an important and necessary issue for them to address, even if they live in suburban Illinois.”

Burwell and CSLR Director Edwin Hernández attended the event with several participants in the Networks of Faith Initiative. This two-year effort, launched in the spring of 2005, offers organizational training sessions and networking opportunities aimed at building the community-serving capacity of Hispanic congregations in the Chicago and South Bend areas. The project is funded by The Pew Charitable Trusts and the Jessie Ball duPont Fund in collaboration with CSLR, Esperanza USA, and the National Catholic Council on Hispanic Ministry. Training and networking sessions have addressed strategic planning, launching a social ministry, creating organizational boards and structures, fundraising, and grant writing. Participants represent Catholic parishes and Pentecostal storefront churches, some of which have already established social service programs—ranging from after-school programs to workers’ rights initiatives, anti-gang education, and HIV/AIDS prevention and education—and others that are just getting started. Go to www.nd.edu/~latino/units/cslr.htm for more information.

Institute Director of Research Timothy Ready presented the findings of his report The State of Hispanic Housing in America 2006 to an audience of more than 400 leaders of faith-based organizations at the June Esperanza USA event. Ready told the gathered leaders that, while most Hispanic homeowners have benefited from the dramatic appreciation of home prices in recent years, Hispanic renters and some homebuyers with subprime and rising variable-rate mortgages face increasingly daunting challenges to affordability. According to Ready, “inequitable treatment and outright discrimination against Hispanic homebuyers and renters are still all-too-common problems which require continued monitoring and increased efforts to enforce fair housing laws.” Go to http://www.nd.edu/~latino/research/new_pubs.htm for a copy of this study, the second in a series produced by Esperanza USA and the Institute for Latino Studies.
Dying to Live: A Migrant’s Journey

The intense debate over immigration and border security has generated its share of images and spokespeople. Amid the din of talk show hosts, politicians, minutemen, and mass demonstrations, the real stories of immigrants are often overshadowed and even distorted. Moved by his work with immigrants and border communities, Rev. Daniel Groody, csc, assistant professor of theology and director of the Institute’s Center for Latino Spirituality and Culture (CLSC), set out on a mission to give a human face to the immigration debate. The result—the film Dying to Live: A Migrant’s Journey—was released in June 2005 and has since been shown in universities, churches, schools, and conferences throughout the United States and in several other parts of the world. The 33-minute video was produced by Groody and directed by distant relative Bill Groody, who met for the first time only months before making the film. It was made possible with funding from Our Sunday Visitor, the University of Notre Dame, the Congregation of the Missionaries of St. Charles-Scalabrini, and various other sources.

Responses to the film indicate that Groody’s mission is being accomplished. An article in the Daily Sentinel of Grand Junction, Colorado, quoted a viewer who confessed that prior to seeing it she had been certain that people from Mexico “were trying to take over the United States.” The stories and images of the film turned her views around and convinced her that immigrants are “not trying to take from the United States, they’re trying to survive.”

Filmed on the border, Dying to Live shows why migrants make the hard decision to leave their homes and documents what they face along their journey. Drawing on the insights of Pulitzer Prize–winning photographers, theologians, Church and congressional leaders, activists, musicians, and the immigrants themselves, the film examines the conflict, pain, and hope found on both sides of the US-Mexican border.

Since its initial release an estimated 5,000 copies have been distributed and an updated version now has Spanish subtitles. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has adopted the video for its Justice for Immigrants campaign, and Catholic Relief Services, Catholic Charities, and Just Faith Ministries have all used it in their educational efforts. Mexico’s Human Rights Commission has screened it widely, and it has been shown at the Mexican Foreign Ministry. It has also been accepted by numerous film festivals, including the International Hispanic Film Festival and the Australian International Film Festival, and was nominated for the Harry Chapin media award for World Hunger Year. PBS will begin airing it this fall. Go to www.dyingtolive.nd.edu for more information and to order copies.

Institute Voices Weigh in on the Immigration Debate

Several authors affiliated with the Institute for Latino Studies have contributed constructive and informed perspectives on immigration in national newspaper opinion pages. Go to www.nd.edu/%7Elatino/outreach/opeds.htm to read op-eds by Allert Brown-Gort, John Koval and Rob Paral.
The State of Latino Chicago

The publication of The State of Latino Chicago: This Is Home Now by Timothy Ready and Allert Brown-Gort revealed that Latinos are the fastest growing population in the Chicago area and the lead driver for jobs and housing with $20 billion in household revenue and 38 percent of total growth among homeowners. In the past 35 years more than 1.3 million Latinos/as have moved to the region, accounting for 96 percent of the total population growth.

The report and its findings were released in a first-of-its-kind regional policy forum held at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago and attended by more than 300 people, including policymakers, civic leaders, regional planning organizations, and the Suburban Mayors’ Caucus. Firmly establishing the Institute’s Metropolitan Chicago Initiative (MCI) as a central locus for information about Latinos and diversity in the greater Chicago area, the report has since received extensive media coverage from more than 30 different outlets, including a front-page story in the Chicago Tribune.

“We must ensure that Chicago-area Latinos continue to prosper and contribute fully to the future vitality of metropolitan Chicago,” said Ready, Institute director of research. “The progress of Latinos has been impressive, but it has also been fragmented and uneven. With well-informed policies and political will, Chicago can and will do better.”
While this largely immigrant community undoubtedly faces some specific challenges,” said Associate Director Brown-Gort, “it also brings with it significant assets and even greater potential. The goal is to minimize the former and maximize the latter.”

“One of the major themes of this latest report,” commented MCI Director Sylvia Puente, “is that although the Latino community is most often perceived as an immigrant community, the people are here to stay. The vast majority of Latino children are US-born Americans, and while two-thirds of their parents are foreign born, most of them are US citizens too. As Chicago becomes more diverse, the region is not going to do well unless its Latino community does well. That’s where we hope to help, by developing partnerships and conducting research—not simply for its own sake but in order to make a positive impact and improve people’s lives.”

Go to www.nd.edu/~chifacts/chi_comm.html to download The State of Latino Chicago and learn more about the Institute’s Chicago Fact Finder—a portal for Census information on metro Chicago, including suburban cities and towns and the city’s 77 county areas. ‘Chifacts’ also serves as the internet gateway to the Institute’s Chicago-related publications and to other websites with information about the area’s Latino population.

Institute Partnership with MCIC

In partnership with the Metro Chicago Information Center (MCIC) the Institute is producing a series of papers based on its Chicago-Area Latino Survey. MCIC Director D. Garth Taylor coauthored “Emerging Markets and Financial Services in the Latino Community” with Mari Gallagher, Francisco Menchaca, and Robin Newberger and “The Naturalization Trail: Mexican Nationality and US Citizenship” with María de los Angeles Torres and Rob Paral. Go to www.nd.edu/~latino/research/publications.htm to view these and future publications in the series.
Puente, who earned her master's degree in public policy from the University of Chicago, previously served as the New Community Initiatives director for The Resurrection Project—an organization that promotes healthy communities through education and community development in Chicago. She was also director of research, public policy, and advocacy for the Latino Institute of Chicago for eight years. Her work there included overseeing the development of ninety publications on immigration, workforce development, and education. Most recently, the governor of Illinois appointed Puente to the New Americans Policy Council.

Under her direction, MCI published *Bordering the Mainstream: A Needs Assessment of the Latino Community in Berwyn and Cicero*, which attracted a great deal of attention in Chicagoland. “The demographics of Berwyn-Cicero transitioned very rapidly,” Puente said, “and a lot of people weren’t comfortable accepting the fact that the population was becoming predominately Latino. The needs assessment allowed us to view the data in black and white, so that we could then gauge people’s perspectives on the community’s new challenges as a basis for our future work.” MCI has gone on to play a pivotal role in marshaling resources for the Institute’s Chicago-area research, facilitating partnerships, providing technical assistance to local organizations, and disseminating information about Illinois’ Latino community.

Puente commented that she felt honored by *Hispanic Business Magazine*’s recognition of her. “I am blessed to have the opportunity to do work that I feel is my life’s calling,” she said, “and to have the support of wonderful colleagues at the Institute for Latino Studies.” Go to http://www.nd.edu/~latino/units/mci.htm for more information about Puente and MCI.
Institute Funders
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The Annie E. Casey Foundation

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The Joyce Foundation

The Lemon/Miller Family

The Museum of Fine Arts Houston, Texas

The Rockefeller Foundation

The US Department of Health and Human Services

Arthur and Joanne Velasquez

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Partnership with The Chicago Community Trust

“Development of Latino Leadership: A Report on The Chicago Community Trust’s Grant Making,” by MCI’s senior research analyst Martha Zurita, with research assistants Magda Banda and Alejandra Cano, summarizes the findings of an MCI study of CCT grants made to foster Latino leadership capacity and civic engagement. Go to www.nd.edu/~latino/research/publications.htm for PDFs of the summary and a longer report on the study.

The Joyce Foundation

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The Museum of Fine Arts Houston, Texas

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The Metropolitan Chicago Initiative Partners with Pilsen's St. Ann Catholic Church

When Rev. Don McNeill, csc, became a senior fellow for the Institute's Metropolitan Chicago Initiative (MCI), he asked a local priest where he might be needed in Chicago's Pilsen neighborhood. Without hesitation, the pastor identified St. Ann Catholic Church. Arriving for the first time in the St. Ann Sacristy in 2003, “Padre” Don McNeill was informed by the deacon of problems finding priests to preside in Spanish. “I think God called me to be here,” Fr. McNeill explains.

Located in the Pilsen neighborhood, an area now comprised mainly of Mexican and Mexican American families, the parish had been functioning without a pastor. The church’s leadership was held together by a tireless Holy Family of Nazareth sister, two dedicated deacons and their wives, and a handful of mostly Polish parishioners who had lived in the neighborhood and supported the institution all of their lives.

With the help of the existing parishioners and leaders, Fr. McNeill and Bishop John Manz developed a parish council, invited the parish’s first Latino pastor, attracted a new principal for the struggling parish school, and included more Spanish speakers in the parish’s leadership. Since then St. Ann has attracted more community residents to the parish and encouraged parishioners to become more involved.
In April 2005, after three years without a pastor, St. Ann welcomed Fr. Felipe Vaglienty. “I can’t overemphasize the importance of having a young Latino priest here at St. Ann,” proclaims parish council member Berenice Alejo. “We’re slowly making changes to respect who we are [as a faith community] and that’s exciting.” Shortly after arriving, Fr. Vaglienty found a long-stored portrait of the Virgin Mary of Guadalupe and hung it in a prominent place in the church. St. Ann parish partner Marilu Gonzalez observes, “We now have a Latino pastor who has to be sensitive to the needs of all but who also has the ability to take risks and say ‘it’s time to change’.”

Turning their attention to the parish school, Fr. McNeill and Fr. Vaglienty recruited 1999 Notre Dame alumnus Brian “Benny” Morten—a talented, young Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) graduate who had been working as an administrator at St. Anthony’s School in Harlingen, Texas—to serve as the school’s new principal. Today Morten announces that over three-quarters of St. Ann’s faculty and staff, two of whom are fellow ACE graduates, have completed or are in the process of completing their master’s degrees. “We don’t have all the resources we need in terms of our facilities and instructional materials,” he notes, “but we are slowly building each day so that our students continue to receive the quality education that has been provided here for over a century.” St. Ann has recently been named one of Notre Dame’s first Magnificat schools. This partnership will serve as a model of cooperation between Catholic universities and local diocesan schools to sustain and strengthen critically important diocesan educational institutions.

St. Ann’s relationship with the Institute’s Metropolitan Chicago Initiative and with the larger University has reinvigorated the parish during a time of transition. This collaborative partnership has MCI listening to the needs of local leaders and walking with them along the journey. By directing needed resources and expertise to the parish and school, MCI has served as a catalyst for change. As a result, St. Ann has developed the momentum needed to enhance a vibrant and united institution for future generations.

“Padre” Don McNeill

Fr. Don McNeill, csc, a priest of the Congregation of Holy Cross, is currently a Senior Fellow of the Institute for Latino Studies with the Metropolitan Chicago Initiative. After his ordination in Rome (’65) and doctoral studies at Princeton Theological Seminary, he taught pastoral and experiential theology at the University of Notre Dame for more than three decades. His passion has always been to develop cross-cultural and community-based service and experiential learning programs locally, nationally, and internationally for Notre Dame students, faculty, staff, and alumni/ae. Fr. Don and colleagues founded the Center for Social Concerns in 1983 to enhance such opportunities. They have enjoyed challenging thousands of program participants to learn from these encounters with spiritual, interdisciplinary, and theological reflection, including the social teachings of the church. With Rev. Henri Nouwen and Rev. Douglas Morrison, Fr. Don coauthored Compassion: A Reflection on the Christian Life and, with a team of Notre Dame alumni/ae of csc programs, he helped develop Rev. Michael Himes’s Doing the Truth in Love. These books remain seminal resources for justice and peace education at Notre Dame, nationally, and globally.
Putting the Institute on the Map

A quick tour of on-campus Institute news and events that attract people from far and wide to Notre Dame:

- **Sueños sin Fronteras: Making College Dreams a Reality** brings local high school and eighth grade students to the Notre Dame campus to learn more about college life. Sponsored by the Institute for Latino Studies, the conference aims to encourage local Latino/a youth to pursue higher education. The conference is entirely initiated, organized, and run by Notre Dame students and focuses on leadership development, self-esteem workshops, and real university experiences. Go to http://www.nd.edu/~latino/students/suenos.htm for more information.

- Every summer the University invites 40 outstanding Latino/a high school students to participate in a stimulating **Latino Community Leadership Seminar** the summer before their senior year. Through a series of presentations, discussions, and interactions led by Notre Dame faculty and graduate students, the seminar explores the role of Latinos/as in US society. Students examine how their values and experiences can inform political, economic, and social realities to produce new avenues for effective Latino leadership. Hosted by the Institute and the Office of Pre-College Programs, the seminar aims to develop a strong commitment to community service and Catholic tradition and to introduce students to Notre Dame. Students stay in campus residence halls, have access to the academic, recreational, and spiritual resources available to ND undergraduates, and earn one college credit upon completion of the program. Go to http://www.nd.edu/~lclsem/ to learn more.

- **Hispanic Magazine** has ranked the University of Notre Dame 13th on its 2006 list of “Top 25 Colleges for Latinos.” Marking the fourth year the University has made the list since its debut in 1999, the magazine based its evaluations on academic excellence, Hispanic enrollment and achievement, selectivity, graduation rates, student-to-faculty ratio, percentage of Hispanic faculty, financial aid, cultural programs, and support for Hispanic students. The magazine particularly noted the importance of programs such as the Institute-sponsored Latino Community Leadership Seminar. Notre Dame was ranked 15th in 2002, 16th in 2003, and 9th in 2004.

- For three days this June the Institute and the University of Notre Dame hosted “Weaving the Future Together: Primer Encuentro Nacional de Pastoral Juvenil Hispana/The First National Encuentro for Hispanic Youth and Young Adult Ministry.” The crowd of 2,000 included young adults, 23 bishops, diocesan...
coordinators, and parish leaders from across the country. Featured speakers included Bishop José H. Gómez of San Antonio, Texas; Cardinal Óscar Andrés Rodríguez Maradiaga of Tegucigalpa, Honduras; Sister María Elena González, rsm, president of the Mexican American Cultural Center in San Antonio, Texas; and Bishop Jaime Soto of Orange County, California, and of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Subcommittee on Youth and Young Adults. Institute Director Gilberto Cárdenas joined Rev. Virgilio Elizondo and Notre Dame Assistant Provost Daniel Saracino in leading an enthusiastically received session on Latinos/as and higher education, which included the testimony of 2005 Notre Dame graduate Stephanie Garza.

- The Institute for Latino Studies, under the auspices of the Inter-University Program for Latino Research (IUPLR), hosted its fifth annual Latino Research Workshop at the University of Notre Dame in July. The theme of this year’s workshop was Latino Obesity: Using Research for Understanding and Action. Obesity is a growing public health crisis that affects all segments of the population but is particularly severe in Latino and African American communities. The workshop was part of a five-year IUPLR project, supported in part through a cooperative agreement with the Office of Minority Health of the US Department of Health and Human Services. The project’s goal is to stimulate applied research to inform effective policies and programs to promote wellness in Latino communities, with an emphasis on strategies to increase physical activity and healthful dietary practices. The 2006 workshop brought together faculty and public health practitioners from around the country to address the social, cultural, and economic factors affecting weight gain among Latino children and adults. Workshop participants from universities in the IUPLR network joined other experts from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and from other universities and community-based health organizations to share their knowledge and experience.

- This June the Institute welcomed Dr. Karen Richman, who is joining us as director of Border and Interamerican Affairs. Richman is the author of Migration and Vodou (2005)—a study of a Haitian transnational community in South Florida—and was in Italy this July giving a presentation at the Bellagio Dialogue on Migration on the impact of migration on homeland economic development and opportunities. This month-long conference brought together scholars, policymakers, and community-based practitioners from across the United States and Europe.

- Encuentro Caribeño: Puerto Rico isla frontera, Cuba y República Dominicana todas islas peregrinas in spring 2006 marked the University’s first interdisciplinary lecture series designed to examine the cultural, political, and social consequences of internal and external Caribbean migrations and the massive population displacements to the United States. Sponsored by the Institute and cosponsored by the Fernández Caribbean Initiative, the Graduate School, colleges, institutes, and other units throughout the University, the series welcomed speakers Arcadio Díaz-Quinones, Jorge Duany, Yolanda Martínez–San Miguel, Ángel G. Quintero Rivera, and Silvio Torres-Saillant.
Poetas y Pintores: Artists Conversing with Verse

Poetas y Pintores: Artists Conversing with Verse is a multidisciplinary initiative that paired twelve Latino/a artists with the work of twelve Latino/a poets. The result was a traveling exhibition that has, thus far, gone to New York, Los Angeles, and San Diego, in addition to Saint Mary’s College in Indiana where the show was launched. This is a joint collaboration between the Institute’s Letras Latinas program, directed by Francisco Aragón, and the Center for Women’s InterCultural Leadership (CWIL) at Saint Mary’s College. It is funded, in part, by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). Go to www.nd.edu/~latino/units/letras.htm for more information about Letras Latinas and to http://poetasypintores.com to view the entire exhibition.

Mangos y limones (excerpt)

The story is about lemons, twenty-five tart moons she digs into salt, chewing lemon after lemon, lips hungry, open, unlike that youngest daughter, lips shut for months, eyes smaller, smaller as the mother’s body swells, the girl who runs into the room at the first cry, presses the baby, slick as peeled fruit, to her breast, says, “You were killing me. Mami, I suffered. Es mío.”

by Pat Mora, from Agua Santa/Holy Water, reprinted courtesy of Beacon Press and Curtis Brown, Ltd.
In September–November 2006 the Snite Museum of Art at the University of Notre Dame is hosting Caras vemos, corazones no sabemos/Faces Seen, Hearts Unknown: The Human Landscape of Mexican Migration to the United States, a multimedia exhibition of Chicano/Mexican visual artists. The bilingual exhibition includes music, immigrant oral histories, vintage photographs, first editions of early Mexican migration texts, and a series of ex-votos that explore the issues raised by Mexican migration to the United States. The aim is to foster a better understanding of migration's sociopolitical, economic, and humanitarian consequences. The curator is Dr. Amelia Malagamba-Ansótegui, professor of Latina/Borderlands art history at the Katherine K. Herberger College of Fine Arts, Arizona State University. Dr. Malagamba-Ansótegui has intimate knowledge of this genre as an artist, as a fronteriza, and as former director of the Department of Cultural Studies at El Colegio de la Frontera Norte (COLEF). After the Snite Museum showing, the exhibition will travel to selected sites throughout the United States and Mexico. Go to http://www.nd.edu/~sniteart/exhibits/index.html#caras for more information.