

# en ACCIÓN

The Latino Student Feature Newspaper of Stony Brook University

May 1996

Vol. III, No.8

## F.Y.I.

### RE: Choosing Healthy Options

Gaudys Sanclemente

In the last issue, there was an article that spoke about depression. One of the many health problems that occur in the college life. Other health-related issues that are topics of concern to students range from HIV, STD's, safer-sex, birth control, stress management, and nutrition.

Given that this is the end of the year, students are more prone to getting sick as a result from stress factors. Speaking as a Peer Health Educator, now is the time to protect your health the most. There are many things that happen to college students as a result of their carelessness from not eating right to not getting enough sleep and rest. It is more likely to happen now, as finals are approaching.

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage any one to get involved in helping other people and at the same time helping themselves in health-related issues, so that we can live in a healthier environment and feel better about ourselves.

There is a program called CHOICE— Choosing Healthy Options, in the College Environment and a stress management workshop, which help students aim towards feeling their best emotionally, physically, socially, and spiritually.

## Brinca Pa' Arriba...

Melinda DeJesús

Over four hundred people showed up to move to the groves of La Banda Loca, and celebrate them Latin American Students Organizations last big jam of the year—The Annual Semi-Formal.

On Saturday, April 20, 1996, the LASO Semi-Formal was a success. All the people that went were able to listen to the sounds of La Banda Loca and New York's own D.J. Henry Knowles. With the good mix of salsa, merengue, and all music of Latin origin, the energy of our people illuminated. A night to call our own and unite as one proved to rise in exaltation.

The board in charge of putting together the Semi-Formal sweated, cried, screamed, and almost killed each other all year just so everyone would have a slamming night. And what a night it was. The people packed in and the ballroom was pumping. People came dressed their best to leave an unforgettable impression. The Semi-Formal was another spectacular reminder of the power and beauty that the Latin community can create.

The Semi-Formal broke barriers that might have been there before between different groups of people. Table hopping and switching dancing partners was a regular activity occurring all night long. The floor was never empty. The enthusiasm



was so great that there were dancing partners rubbing elbows causing an overflow onto the carpeted area of the ballroom.

Anyone outside the ballroom area could not help but feel the traditional rhythms and el sabor that radiated from the Semi-Formal. The entire night was an array of swinging women, hips swaying and feet barely touching the floor. The vigor could not be denied.

To top off the night, we were dazzled by a performance from Mambo Dancers. They left the

crowd in awe with the splendor of their dance and colorful costumes.

Walking around campus on a regular day you would never imagine how many latinos we have on this campus but on Saturday, we came out of the woodwork to celebrate together.

If there is one night where, as Latinos, we can enjoy our music, our food, our people and ourselves, it is at the Annual Semi-Formal.

And this night will be one never to forget letting us look forward to many more.

# "Native Intellectuals in the Andes"

Gaudys Sanclemente

On April the 18, in honoring Latin American week, the Latin American and Caribbean Studies Center presented guest lecturer, Joanne Rappaport. She has done the last ten years, in 1982, she got her P.H.D. in Anthropology, at the University of Illinois. In 1983, she went to the University of Maryland, where she got a position in the Spanish Department, while at the same time moving into Anthropology, which has been her specialty since today.

Since the 1970's, there has been a growth of indigenous movements in the Amerindian regions of Latin America. Joanne Rappaport discusses the native Andean artists and writers in the South American regions of Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia. With a special emphasis

on Bolivia. The lecture was based upon how indigenous writers are exploring and rediscovering their native past. How their writings are being known and read between two cultures from the dominant society and how they are establishing their own types of writings for their people and in their own ways.

As a means to describe the struggles of certain native intellectuals in learning how to read and write, Joanne Rappaport used Bolivia as the best example. There are various genres that range from the local history to the socio-economic and synthetic analysis of the indigenous movement. These writings that are done by indigenous people are usually written for the audience, community, and indigenous sectors, using both print and media in helping to distribute their

works. Examples of different experiments in writings of literary genre would be: "Andean Workshop" and in Ecuador, "El Escribano de Los Caciques Apoderados."

As mentioned earlier she used Bolivia as the best example because the educational system has been most widespread. The indigenous people are taking the genres from the left. Such things as local history are being written by teachers and these writings are written out in not only good spanish, but also bilingual. In one of her slides she showed the Urus, which are a subordinate group as being an example of this. Another slide she showed of the manipulation of the linguistic marker is of a native intellectual writer by the name of Alejandro Mamani, who wrote "Historia, y Cultura de Cohana."

It was written in a comic book form, had very predictable themes and ancient geographical settings. The bulk of the book was written in spanish and he incorporated specific voices in his writings.

Most of these native intellectual writings had functional symbolic objects and forms of visual traditions that have existed. These written words were duplicated as if they were written. There is significant differences in Bolivia, Colombia, and Ecuador from history that indigenous people had lived. Peru and Ecuador were impressed by the indigenous writings of Bolivia. Although native identities that existed have not flourished there is more of a sporadic growth. Instead of losing their Indian identity, they are rediscovering their Indian culture, so they can be included in society.

## Gamma Ce Upsilon Sorority, Inc.

Gamma Ce Upsilon Sorority Inc., Gran Damas de la Gran Cultura Unica- was founded November 3, 1989 at the University at Stony Brook by three undergraduate and one graduate woman. These women felt it was vital to begin to look at the beauty of all Latin-American Countries and attempt some sort of unification through education, community service & sisterhood. Gamma Ce Upsilon Sorority Inc. has participated in various public services such as expressing our Latin culture through our annual latin events and educational programs. We have also participated in Special Olympics, Make-A-Wish foundation fundraiser, Aids Quilt, Big Brothers & Sisters, New York Cares, Toys for Tots, and volunteered in various hospitals and

helped in soup kitchens. Though we are a Latin-Culturally based Sorority, we are not exclusively Latin. We believe that we will prosper with our growing membership of women who identify with, and who are dedicated to our struggle. Our colors are red & black; our flower is the red Rose; our insignia is the Swan. Our motto is "Through Innovative Thoughts come Progressive Ideas" and we strongly believe that "Without struggle there is no Progress". Frederick Douglass.

For further information please contact Jennifer Greminger- President- School-(516)632-1398 Home-(516)432-7914

## Damas De La Gran Cultura Unica



*Innovative . . . Progressive*

# QUOTAS ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES

Hypatia Martinez

There are some that feel that Affirmative Action has reached its end. The hostile battle between minorities who benefit from Affirmative Action and whites who feel that it is reverse discrimination have not even begun to start the battle. The courts have taken the matter of Affirmative Action's existence into serious concern. Some are hoping to destroy the uniform policy that has been spread throughout college universities and workplaces across the nation.

Many who favor Affirmative Action claim that it is a benefit for the nation by lending a hand to the racial and socio-economical community that has been plagued with discrimination and racism in America's history. It seemed a good idea to restructure the college campuses by ensuring that certain ethnic groups have an opportunity to attend schools previously denying admissions to their sector of the population.

Criticism concerning affirmative action has opened ideas as to whether or not this policy is, indeed, reverse

discrimination or that what was needed in the past is no longer essential.

The media has been covering the issue of the angry white man who has been complaining that they are losing jobs to underqualified minorities. Many people you speak to will have a story about a white student who was not accepted into the col-

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***"Four hundred years of slavery and the every day discriminatory policies that govern our teachings of US history do not compare to a few years of Affirmative Action"***

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lege of choice because of affirmative action admitting minority students.

Even with the advances of African Americans, Latinos and women in the work force, we cannot be ready to say that the competition

is equal now. Even with the ever growing number of minority and women college students, the work force is still lacking the numbers to make the board room a little bit more colorful. Women still do not make the same money that men make and how many Latino CEO's do you know? Needless to say that they are people in the market who are standing firm but there is still a need for more.

Four hundred years of slavery and the every day discriminatory policies that govern our teachings of US history do not compare to a few years of Affirmative Action.

Let's not forget that some people who are losing their jobs need to put away their egos for a second and evaluate the situation. If a Latino gets hired into a law firm, does that necessarily mean that he was hired because of Affirmative Action? Can a white man accept that a Latino may be more educated than him?

Many communities are separated on racial lines and bringing a minority into the workplace can help bring the barriers down and move some of

the communities together.

On March 28, in Newsday, Terry Eastland was stated as saying, "Only race blind admissions procedures can ensure fairness and protect rights that are personal in nature." If all people started out with basically the same education then the Eastland would have a choice but not everyone comes from the same neighborhood with the same nice big library and books that have pages ripped out. A classroom with 40 + students does not ensure a good education and therefore does that mean that because they grew up in the wrong neighborhood that means that they cannot have the same chances to go to a good university?

We need to look as success as a race-blind issue. We can only benefit from all sectors of the population getting a good education therefore raising the ladder of success. African Americans had to sacrifice their lives to pick cotton and the Chinese had to sacrifice their lives to build railroad, why can't whites sacrifice for a change?

## Sigma Lambda Beta Fraternity, Inc.

Sigma Lambda Beta International Fraternity, Inc. is the largest National Latino Fraternity which emphasizes brotherhood, intellectual excellence, cultural awareness and service. The fraternity was established on April 4, 1986 at the University of Iowa by 18 men who saw the need and feasibility for creating a Latino organization to disseminate and promote the rich Latino culture which we all share, in order to enhance the understanding of one another and advance the general welfare of the Latino population. The fraternity's motto is "Opportunity for Wisdom, Wisdom for Culture." Sigma Lambda Beta Fraternity, Inc. is a young and growing fraternity which spans across the United States in such locations as New York, Florida,

Texas, Illinois, Colorado, California and the island of Puerto Rico.

Sigma Lambda Beta Fraternity, Inc. is committed to developing individuals to their fullest potentials in order to help serve the needs and wants of our people. As members, Brothers will learn to "open their eyes" to see the possibilities that are open to all Latinos, to share thoughts and ideas, and to recognize the potential that we as a united whole can and will exhibit in order to help keep our shared values alive and working. Each member has the responsibility to develop and utilize his own skills and assets in anyway that may contribute to the overall success of the fraternity, and more importantly help improve our community, our country and the world.



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# CAMPUS SPOTLIGHT

## Amy Alvarez

### Gaudys Sanclemente

Our campus spotlight for this issue is Amy Alvarez. Currently, she is a junior, with a major in psychology and a minor in child and family studies. You may recognize her as the girl with the "little hat", who works at Stony Snacks in the Union.

Amy was born and raised in the Bronx and it was in 1993 when she first stepped foot in Stony Brook University that she felt there was a diverse atmosphere, a home away from home here.

Her dedications would include not only her studies, but LASO as well, where she has been the secretary for three years, since her freshman year. Aside from her involvement in LASO, she was also involved in a youth group, where they throw parties for sick children that are given during major holidays, such as Christmas and Thanksgiving. The reasons she gets involved in different things is because she wants to help as much as she can, not for recognition, but because it



Our Campus Spotlight of the Month: Amy Alvarez

comes from within her to help.

As a pass time, when Amy isn't dedicating her time to LASO, she loves taking pictures, she's always with a camera and

loves reading, as well as writing poetry. A major goal that she is aiming for is to one day become a child psychologist and get a master's degree. She also would like to

make something not only out of herself, but as well as make a difference in the Latin community. In describing herself, she said she considers herself to be sincere and tries to do the best she can. She also mentioned that she tries to put all the efforts she has when it comes to such things as LASO, which is a big part of her.

Amy puts a lot of hard work and dedication in everything that she sets her mind to do and is currently doing. For next year, however, she is unable to continue in her position of secretary in LASO, because it is her final year, her senior year and she would have to focus more on her school work. This does not mean that she will not be around, she will always help out in anyway possible. This is one student who is greatly appreciated in the Latin community and who should be known as a student who has a goal and strives to achieve it.

# Congratulations

To the New en Acción Executive Board

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# Latinos Del Mundo...

José Martínez

On Sunday April 21, 1996 the Honorable Brothers of Sigma Lambda Beta Fraternity, Inc. and the Sisters of Gamma Ce Upsilon Sorority, Inc. hosted their fourth annual Latin Block Party behind the Indoor Sports Complex. People came out to enjoy a day of laughter, play some sports, or just relax their feet after a long night of dancing with "La Banda Loca" at the LASO semiformal the night before.

This year's theme was "Latinos Del Mundo..." There were T-shirts with the continent of South America on the back and a peace sign on top of it. Sending a message to the Latinos of the world to unite as one. Something these two organizations have done for the past four years.

Arroz, habichualas, pollo and alcapurias are some

examples of the Latino food served at the event and for those who for some odd reasons don't like Latino food there were burgers and hot dogs also.

La Nueva Imagen Dominicana provided music ranging from merengue, salsa, hip hop, and reggae. If you like a certain type of music you were sure to find it here.

This year three comedians from the New York Comedy Club provided the live entertainment for the Stony Brook community. These guys have appeared on Uptown Comedy Club and the Russell Simmons Def Comedy Jam just to name a few of their performances. They made everyone laugh with jokes about growing up as Latinos, some of their experiences at other schools

and other jokes.

A talent/open mic session was held this year for the first time. Many different acts went up on stage to compete. There were acts rhyming, singing, and dancing. The decision was tough because nobody was booed of the stage all the participants

survived the Stony Brook crowd. But at the end the crowd favorite sophomore Erica Longo who went on stage and performed some hip hop was named the winner of the first annual Latin Block Party Talent/Open Mic Session.

The annual Dominoes Tournament was held. A total of eight teams played in it this year. All teams played well but at the end there was only one winning team. The team which consisted of Andie Sharbo and Greg Rodriguez came out on top of everyone.

Towards the end people went up to mic and gave shout outs to people they know and different organizations. Some of the greek organizations also began to stroll for the crowd. At the end people were going home after a long and well spent weekend at SUNY at Stony Brook.



Gamma ce Upsilon and Sigma Lambda Beta with the comedian Stephen Solis.



All Latin greeks and non-Latin greeks who came and showed support.

## Ya Tu Sabes!!!

# Editor's Note...

Melinda ...

José...

Here it is the last and final issue for the 1995-1996 academic year. However this also happens to be my last issue. I just want to say what a joy it has been through all the good times and the bad, even though there was a lot of difficulty keeping our voice alive - in the end it was all worth it. I will sincerely miss everyone that I was able to become closer to and everyone who touched my life. It is always hard to say goodbye, but I will miss you all from the bottom of my heart and our friendship will always stay alive as we remember all the laughs we had and all the cries we shared. Through good times and bad we stuck it through and now is the time that we must go our own ways. And even if years from now we don't speak or see each other it will those days when I think of you that puts a smile on my face."

As we reflect back on the year, we are able to see all the occurrences that have effected us not just in the University, but in the world. From Castro to the beatings of our Mexican brothers and sisters in California, we are able to foresee our future if we do not work as one.

An obstacle that we, as a community, must address is the color barriers amongst ourselves. Whether a person is light or dark, we need to stop the prejudice in our own race. No one else can hurt us but ourselves. We were our own obstacles and barriers, instead of hurting each other we need to help each other.



I am so glad that Latin Week was a success. Congratulations to the Latin American Executive Board on such a wonderful job. And congratulations to Gamma Ce Upsilon and Sigma Lambda Beta for throwing a slamming Block Party. Congrats.

I would like to extend my congratulations and best of luck to the graduating

seniors- (That's Us!!) Let's go out and make a difference!!! But most of all let's not forget our people. And I would like to congratulate the New 1996-1997 En Acción Board. I'm putting my baby in your hands... Take care of her.

I need to extend an extra special thank you to my sisters of Hermandad de Sigma Iota Alpha Inc. without their understanding and motivation, I would have died. I love you women and always will.

Latinos del Mundo...

.....Keep our voices alive!

Melinda Dejesús  
Editor-In-Chief (95-96)

The last issue of the semester is finally here and with this issue come the

Latin Week was a success thanks to the different Latino organizations on campus. LACC with their native intellectual speaker, Sigma Iota Alpha with their Poetry reading at Colours Cafe, LASO with a great semiformal and Gamma Ce Upsilon and Sigma Lambda Beta with the fourth annual Latin Block Party.

I have just been elected Editor In Chief of en Acción for next year and I will try to keep up the great job done by our graduating editor Melinda Dejesús. We started the year off on a rocky road but it has become smoother now thanks to her.

Congratulations to all the Latinos graduating this year. We broke one barrier by making it through high school and now were taking down another. Go out there and show the world that Latinos are making their move.

One incident that I would like to bring to the minds of the Latino people was that which occurred on April 1st in California. Two Mexican citizens were coming into the United States of America, the "land of opportunity" and were beat by two sheriffs on the highway in broad daylight while being taped by a news helicopter. The proof is there that they have committed crime and what do they get for doing this? I see they get a paid vacation because they get taken off the job with pay. So, if you beat Mexicans you get a paid vacation. Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, Dominicans, and all other Latinos we must unite as one and raise our voices because if we let this incident go by like so many other everything our predecessors have fought for will have no meaning.

José Martínez  
Managing Editor  
1995-1996

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Polity Print Shop

Very Special thanks to all of the people who supported this issue and extended their help to my staff. We will be forever grateful.

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# Opinions...

## ENGLISH VS. SPANISH

Hypatia Martinez

Bilingual education is one of the hottest topics being debated across senate hearings. There is the conservative side that has the view that government funding for bilingual education is prohibiting the growth of the nation and the segregation of new immigrants. Then there is the liberal side that wants to protect culture and the right of immigrants to receive bilingual voting booths and education. To whom does one side with?

If you decide that you are against bilingual education does that mean that you are a racist and that you don't want to promote the propaganda that America is a melting pot? As a Latina, may I be labeled a "sell-out" if I decided that bilingualism is only hurting my people?

A lobbyist for bilingual education stated that the new immigrant that enters this country has the right to vote and to understand who is running and what their platform

is. A student that is from another country has the right to an education and if being taught in their native tongue ensures academic success, then why stop them? We need to, as a coalition of different cultures, need to preserve the various diversities that make us whole. If you tell someone that English will be the official language, you are singling out millions of working people in this country. They will not be equal to the other workers of the United States.

In Long Island, recently, representative Peter King went to Plainview-Old Bethpage JFK High School. He spoke to a group of students in their Spanish class and discussed the issue. Most of the students agreed with King. Bilingual education is given a budget from the government to make up voting booths in different languages and offer ESL classes to new immigrants students to learn basic academic skills in their native tongue. This, in King's opinion, is diving us as a

nation. King does not see anything wrong in speaking an ethnic language in one's home but when it comes to schools, the workplace and voting booths, English should be the official language.

At first, hearing the topic, I sided with the issue of the benefits of bilingual education. Then I listened closer to the issues and I decided that this Republican made a little more sense than I gave him credit for.

The issue is simple. If I move to France, I have to speak French. I would have to conform to the culture at large. For anyone to succeed in this country, you need to be able to speak and write English efficiently.

Let's not forget that English is not the native tongue of this land but with the almost horrific success of the obliteration of the Native Americans, English has rained as the unofficial language of the United States.

If everyone spoke and wrote English there would be less ignorance in our inner-city communities. How many times have I had to translate for my grandparents what their income tax says or the advice of their doctor? If they knew

English, they could participate in the decision making of their lives.

How can you become a productive member of this society if you cannot be involved in the daily activities of communicating and associating? You cannot become a success if you are silent and are illiterate in the world around you?

Diversity is beautiful and it is offers benefits in its own right and no disregard is going to the millions of Spanish speaking Americans (including myself) but to function in America, you have to do what you have to do to get by, to put it simply. Many immigrants before have come to this country and learned the language. With the new tool acquired of being able to function with the society at hand, many of the new immigrants have been able to move up the socio-economic ladder.

The best for my people is what is needed to progress in society and leave the government housing behind. Separating ourselves is not benefiting us and it never will.

## RACISM

Hypatia Martinez

Recently, the bosses of WABC radio fired Bob Grant, a renown radio talk show host, who has been documented frequently for making racist remarks. WABC radio fired him due to pressure after Grant's latest remark about Commerce Secretary Ron Brown's death. Art Buchwald, a syndicated columnist based in Washington, wrote, "Grant said that there might be one survivor from the plane crash, and because he was a pessimist his hunch was that it would be Ron Brown." An ABC producer that Buchwald spoke to said, "Radio is the only serious soapbox the racists have."

Bob Grant has said that we should drown Haitian refugees if

they try to enter the United States, called members of a Church in Harlem 'screaming savages' and has made remarks concerning Magic Johnson's declaration that he had HIV. It seems obvious to any sane individual that Grant should have been booted off the air a long time ago.

Let's not forget that Ann Landers, the syndicated advice columnist, recently called the Pope a "Polak." Our beloved Al D'mato, on a radio talk show, made fun of Judge Ito's ethnicity by putting on a fake Chinese accent. The infamous Howard Stern has had numerous accounts of comments that appear racist and discriminatory. He was quoted as saying that Mexicans had no taste in music

and then he mocked the death the Tejano singing star, Selena.

What these celebrities said is no different from the actions of Bob Grant. If so, why was Grant fired and not these people? One thing that Bob Grant forgot to do after he made his comments was to apologize. All of the persons I mentioned above have made public apologies. Yes, Bob Grant has made a slew of remarks in the past but speaking about an African-American that had influential friends just wasn't going to make it this time without some deep remorse.

Why is it any different if Grant said that, "All he (Magic Johnson) has is the HIV virus, and that could last a long time" and what was said about Ron Brown? Maybe Grant would've kept his job if he apologized like Landers, D'mato and Stern did.

Most of us have heard or said a few jokes that may be seen as racist, so yes, I understand that these people are not any different than the regular public but when you hold such an extreme public life and what you say is distributed and market across the globe, then it is not accepted. The only mistake any of these people did was being caught with their foot in their mouths.

Should we forgive them because they said that they were sorry? Does that change their platform of hate and bigotry? If David Duke suddenly apologized for his participation in the Ku Klux Klan, would you forgive him so easily? I don't think so.

# Society of Hispanic Engineers: Opening Doors for Latinos

Alexander Savifion

As the new president of the Society of Hispanic Engineers (S.H.E.), I would like to thank the 95-96 executive board as well as those dedicated members for maintaining the vision of our founding father, Carlos Menjivar. Our society unites and educates Hispanic students on Hispanic issues and concerns and promotes professional awareness by means of interaction. Our main goal is to increase the number of Hispanic students entering fields in engineering and applied sciences and most importantly, to help them stay in school by providing them with guidance and support.

During this past year, the society has continued to grow and attract new people. Although some people at times have felt as though the society has been dormant, it goes without question that those who actively participated benefited a great deal from our society.

This semester, the Society presented two guest speakers from industry; they were Marcos Canihuante from AT&T and Orlando Montan from NYNEX. Both of them gave very interesting and informative talks and collected resumes. Also, in conjunction with the Collegiate Science & Technology Program (C-STEP), some of the members visited high schools on Long Island and in New York City to give small presentations on how it is like to be an engineer. Furthermore, we assisted the college of engineering in selling tickets for their annual semi-formal. Most importantly, we attended the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers' (S.H.P.E.) Eastern Technical & Career Conference Danvers, Massachusetts, the National Technical & Career Conference in Seattle, Washington, and the Reginal Student Leadership Conference in Rochester, New York.

At these conferences, many of the members were able to meet and network with many professionals and other student chapters.

This year the success of the Society's members has been unprecedented. Nearly all of our members have been accepted or are in the process of being interviewed for summer internships/jobs at well known companies or institutions. For example, two members have been highly recommended to apply to the Young Educators Program (Y.E.P.) where they will teach high school students engineering related courses during the summer. Other members have been contacted by Brookhaven National Laboratory, Syracuse University, American Honda, Boeing, GT Equipment Technologies, General Dynamics, Department of Transportation, General Electric (G.E.) and Xerox. All these companies are well aware of the talent that is among our society

and among the Hispanic students here at Stony Brook.

Any one who is interested in joining the society is encouraged to look for flyers at the beginning of the fall semester. Next year, the new executive board is filled with energy and exciting ideas; it is eager to continue the strive for excellence. The talented new E-board for the '96-'97 scholastic year is:

President: Alexander Savifion  
Vice President: Julie Castaño  
Secretary: José Martinez  
Treasurer: Roberto Maldonado

The Society of Hispanic Engineers can be contacted by e-mail at [shpe@ic.sunysb.edu](mailto:shpe@ic.sunysb.edu) or come to the Society of Hispanic Engineers' office in Old Engineering room 112.

## Hermandad de Sigma Iota Alpha Inc.

Hermandad de Sigma Iota Alpha, Inc. is a Latin cultural-based sorority. The history of this organization goes back to 1985 in Troy, New York. The sorority itself was founded on September 29, 1990 by 13 aspiring young women in the state of New York. Through the encouragement of the Latin culture, the sorority hopes to educate and unify those of diverse culture and also to provide a sense of pride for those who have a Latin background. The Sorority is dedicated to promoting the awareness of the Latin culture to the community at large. At the moment, Hermandad de Sigma Iota Alpha currently recognizes 19 chapters.

The sorority takes great pride in getting involved in the community by providing community service internationally as well as locally. The organization gets involved in different endeavors to help the needy in different causes. In association with our nationals, the sorority offers a college student and a graduating high school senior one scholarship each. Within the Beta

Chapter at Stony Brook, we are involved in various activities. They consist of Breast Cancer Walk, Special Olympics, Hispanic Heritage Month, OXFAM, March of Dimes Walk America, Multiple Sclerosis Walk-a-thon, and educational workshops. We also sponsor a little girl in a Latin American country.

Our goals are to constantly strive towards the expansion of awareness of the Latin culture to the community at large; to promote sisterhood and leadership amongst ourselves and to stand for excellence in education and achievements among women. Although we endeavor to constantly work as sisters united in these common goals, we value our personal identity and individualism and in doing so developing leadership, scholarship, sportsmanship, and friendship. Sigma Iota Alpha does not tolerate any discrimination of race, religion, social background, or disability. Our official colors are red, gold, royal blue. Our motto is "Semper unum et Inseparabilis"-Always One and Inseparable.



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# A Freshman Experience

Luis Trujillo

What in the world am I doing here?- was my first reaction when I saw how big the campus was. It was the Sunday night before the first day of school and I had just moved all my things into Keller college in Roosevelt Quad. This, I was told, was where I would be staying until they could find a new permanent residence hall for me.

The next day I did not know what to expect, I tried to go to my classes but I couldn't find them in time, so I arrived late for all of them. I was so overwhelmed by all the people I saw and what was worse, I knew none of them. For a whole week all I did was try to take it day by day and adapt to what would now become my home, Stony Brook. Before I knew it the weekend had arrived and I was eager to go home. I missed it all,

my friends, my family, and the little things such as eating out of your own refrigerator in your own kitchen or sleeping on your old bed which doesn't sag in the middle. So before I could think about it I was on a train back home. This went on for many weeks until I began to get used to college life and decided to stay for the weekend more often.

One of the things that helped me was that I was finally moved out of that hole in Roosevelt and into Gray. Gray wasn't too much better but at least it had more people living in it. However, my problems were far from over. I encountered yet another problem I had to deal with which I hadn't dealt with before, but many of us have since we came to college. I seriously did not get along with my roommate and that definitely did not help in my transition, how-

ever I dealt with it as best as I could and didn't let it bring me down.

I still knew no-one so when I heard that an organization called the Latin American Students Organization (L.A.S.O.) would be holding a meeting I figured it was a good way to meet people. I went to the first meeting and liked it. I found out that there would be elections at the following meeting so I decided to become involved and ran for freshman representative. I was happy when I was elected and certainly did begin to meet new people. After that I noticed more and more how different college was from high school. There was no one on top of you telling you to do your work or help you unless you sought the help yourself.

It was different but I learned to deal with it and when times

towards the middle and end of the semester got tough I learned some valuable things like there are 24 hours in a day, how to balance these hours and most importantly, it's the little things that count the most.

Overall, I did well my first semester and learned how I could do better the following semester. For now I'm just using the things I learned my first semester to my advantage and they certainly seem to be working out. What were your feelings on the semester? Did you like it now? Do you stay more weekends?

## Sigma Lambda Gamma Sorority, Inc.

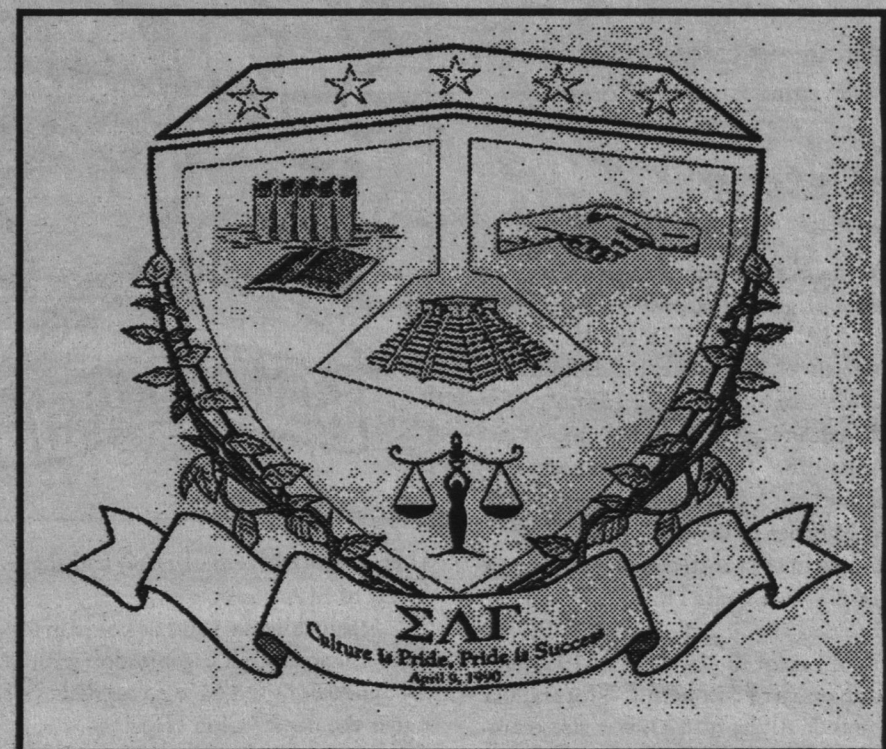
Sigma Lambda Gamma Sorority, Inc. is an academic, cultural, and social organization. However, as women we feel that our primary goal is to promote our evolving rich and diverse culture, by sharing it with others.

On October 22, 1989, a group of women gathered together to form an organization for Latina women at the University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA. After many hours of extensive work, the Panhellenic Council at the University of Iowa recognized Sigma Lambda Gamma as a sorority. It was on that day, April 9, 1990, that Sigma Lambda Gamma was founded.

Currently, Sigma Lambda Gamma exists in 22 Universities and colleges all throughout the United States of America. Our members have recognized the need for togetherness

and support for among women of all cultures at their universities and colleges and are determined to contribute to the overall success of women in the world.

The purpose of Sigma Lambda Gamma Sorority shall be primarily one of promoting standards of excellence in morality, ethics, and education. Further the sorority shall work together to better serve the needs and wants of all people by disseminating information about the diverse culture which we all share. Finally the sorority shall maintain respect for the views of others through acceptance, thereby, enhancing our understanding of one another, and thus bettering our community, our country and the world.



For More Information Contact:  
Madelyn Perez (516) 632-1651  
Jennifer Baron (516) 632-3890

# Phi Iota Alpha

A Cultural Fraternity Geared Towards the Upliftment and Preservation of the Latino Culture

## Who we are...

We, la familia de Phi Iota Alpha; a brotherhood composed of undergraduate, graduate, and professional men internationally, established December 26, 1931, is the First International Latino Fraternal Organization.

Therefore, we dedicate ourselves to the empowerment of our Latino community. We furthermore dedicate ourselves to provide intensive social and cultural activities geared toward the promotion of the Latin American Culture.

Through brotherhood amongst our members our purpose is to unify all the Latin American cultures under one network, while unifying and advancing Latinos in the United States. We pledge our efforts to abolish the ignorance, prejudice, and racism against and between the Latin American nationalities within our communities, universities, and nations of origin.

## **History:**

The roots of Phi Iota Alpha (ΦΙΑ) in the U.S. were implanted at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (R.P.I.), Troy, N.Y. in 1898. In 1898, a group of students at R.P.I. founded an organization only for Latino Americanos, "Union Hispano Americana" (U.H.A.). This organization expanded to many colleges and universities in the U.S. In 1916, at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (M.I.T.), Pi Delta Phi (ΠΔΦ) was also founded aligning themselves to the objectives of the U.H.A. In 1919, at University of Southern California, Phi Lambda Alpha (ΦΛΑ), was also established with similar goals to the U.H.A. and PDF. By 1921, these three organizations fused into one strong organization adopting the constitution of



U.H.A., the emblem of ΠΔΦ and the letters of FLA.

Meanwhile, in 1904 at Louisiana State University, an organization with similar goals as ΦΛΑ, was founded under the name "Club Hispano-

Americano". In 1912, this organization changed its name to Sigma Iota (ΣΙ) and became a fraternity of Latino Americanos in the U.S. "La Sigma" expanded very rapidly to Europe, America Latina, and the Continental

U.S. Yet, they faced the problems of expanding too quickly and having too many chapters with little supervision.

The year 1931, became the most significant date in the history of fraternal organizations for Latino Americanos in the U.S. As both fraternities expanded to other campuses and countries by promoting similar goals and values ΦΛΑ and ΣΙ began negotiations to merge into one organization. On December 26, 1931 these two organizations became PHI IOTA ALPHA which was the strongest international fraternity in existence; chapters were established throughout the U.S., as well as in Latin America, (University of Michigan, Loyola Univ., Louisiana State Univ., Indiana Technical College Chile, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Mexico, Guatemala, Peru, and Belgium). ΦΙΑ in 1932, to expand the richness of our cause for existence developed the "Union Latino Americana" dividing America Latina into twenty-one zones and the U.S. became number twenty-two, represented by "La Fraternidad".

From the break out of World War II to 1952, Phi Iota Alpha's brothers declined drastically due to the reduction of the enrollment of Latino Americanos in universities in the U.S. But by 1958 the membership increased again but with less chapters. By 1968, the only active chapter of the fraternity existed at R.P.I. and by 1973 it ceased to exist along with ten other fraternities.

In 1984, a group of young men at R.P.I. learned about the greatness and the achievements of ΦΙΑ and revived it's spirit. However, these young men revised and changed some of the qualifications to join the brotherhood. Before 1973, in order to join the organization, one had to be native of America Latina. From 1984 to the present our illustrious brotherhood has expanded throughout New York state.... Currently we are expanding to several other schools.

For further information call  
Elisamuel Rivera (Sam) @  
x4770 or José Salcedo @  
x4256.

## Coming Soon...

# Poemas...

Who am I?

Because of my features I am woman.  
Because of my ancestry I am Hispanic.  
Because I am Hispanic I am a minority.  
Because of my genes I am short.  
Because of where I live I am called a hard-core-hood-loom.  
Because of my height I am cute.  
Because I like to joke and put smiles on faces I am called childish.  
Because I let no one in I am cold hearted.  
Because I don't cry I am a Bitch.  
Because I don't lead I am called a follower.  
Because I am weak I am no strong.  
Because I am scared I fear.  
Because I am not loved I search and when I find I try to hold.  
Because I look down I am no one.

No, Now who am I?

I am a woman because of the way I carry myself.  
I am an Arawak Indian and out of that Puerto Rican.  
I am a majority and I am taking over.  
I stand tall and high.  
I am an educated and intelligent hood-lum.  
I am beautiful inside and out.  
I am mature.  
I'll let you in when you prove yourself worthy.  
I cry within, but hush, because no one need know.  
I am not scared, I challenge.  
I don't fear I conquer.  
I am loved.  
I love and respect myself.  
I hold my head up high for all the world to see!

I am who I am.

I don't change I simply improve.  
No one will break me because I know who I am.  
I am me!

Annette Flores

## Latin Princess

All women are special creatures  
Deserving to be pampered and respected.  
For they are truly priceless.  
Yet only Latin women can,  
In all ways be compared to a princess.

My Latin princess how can I  
Describe what you mean to me.  
It would take a thousand poets, a thousand years  
To describe my feelings for thee.  
I wish to show you the truth of your worth,  
Yet how can I make you see?  
For I cherish you everyday  
No matter where or who you may be

Whether you act like a soft, feminine sophisticate  
Or a rugged around the way girl,  
You Latin women must be cherished  
Like no other woman in the world.

You can show courage, strength, and power  
In what can seem to be instrumentable odds.  
Or you can show passion, love, and sensitivity  
As if sent directly from God.

You are the guardians of our culture,  
The pillars of the people,  
And the mothers of a race.  
Without your love and support  
We would disappear without a trace.

You are a Latin lady,  
The beauty of which none can compare,  
From your voluptuous, pointing lips,  
To your long, soft dark hair.  
From your hypnotic brown eyes  
Which sparkle with the innocence of youth,  
To your perfect smile which always begets the truth.  
Latin princess you are beautiful,  
That is no doubt, you present beauty  
With every sense of your being both inside and out.

From that sweet yet fiery attitude,  
To that perfect beauty you possess,  
You are the finest representation  
And a true Latin Princess.

Eric Simeon

# Latin American & Caribbean Center

## Clubs/Departments/Organizations

Do you have an idea or suggestion for an event?

Do need assistance?

Do you need co-sponsorship?

Do you need resources?

If so please contact us immediately!

The Latin American & Caribbean Studies Center would like to co-sponsor events with anyone that has an idea or suggestion dealing with issues in education, academic, speakers, artists and cultural programs.

We are here as a resource center for you to utilize as well as a cosponsoring unit.

We are NOT here to just fund any event...there is a difference.

We do have limited funds available.

Those interested please write a clear proposal with a mission statement and other relevant information to:

Norma Porras

Latin American and Caribbean Center

SBS N-335

Z-4345

or call and make an appointment at 632-7517.

## NEW LAC COURSES

### Summer

RLS 150 The Religious Dimension: Images of Christianity in Latin American Literature. B

### Fall

SPN 415 Latino and Latin American Literature  
AFS 239 Introduction to the Caribbean Experience  
His 421 Amazon Rainforest

## Internship Opportunities through LAC 488 (3 to 12 credits)

### A. University Hospital Volunteer

\*Get credits as well as benefits such as free parking validation and a free meal.  
\*Choose the area you want to work in.

### B. Hispanic Heritage Month Committee Ambassador

\*Get credits and be a student chair for the committee and help our your community.

### C. Latin American and Caribbean Center Liaison

\*Get credits and be a liaison between the center and other campus organizations.

### D. Tutoring through Liberty Partnership Program

\*Get credits and also be a tutor for high school students.