



LASO NEWSLETTER

Northeastern University
Latin American Student
Organization

Volume 2, Issue 2
December 2006

Letter from the Editor

The semester is coming to an end as we reminisce on the good times we shared these past four months. Here is a recap highlighting some "LASO Happenings" from the fall semester. From getting a new director at the LSCC, to Latinos leaving NU, many events and some memorable outings, LASO has had an eventful semester and looks forward to doing it all over again in the spring.

For those who are receiving this for the first time, I would like to welcome you to the second volume of LASO's newsletter. We invite you, Latino or not, to join our *familia* to learn and grow with us. LASO's newsletters will contain brief updates on the happenings of the organization, recognition of outstanding LASO leaders, updates on the lives of our alumni (Society of Latino Alumni) and a calendar of the upcoming events. Overall, the newsletter will serve as a tool for ongoing communication between LASO and the community.

Donations to the organization are gladly accepted as well as any opportunities, may it be jobs, scholarships, community events, or places to volunteer. Guest speakers at our meetings are always welcome. Lastly, if you have any questions regarding any of the information provided or would like to unsubscribe, please feel free to contact me directly @ Jessica_Jasovpea@yahoo.com. Thank you and enjoy!

LSCC welcomes new Director Jose Amaya

After a school year and a half and 3 search committees, the Latin@ Student Cultural Center welcomes new Director Jose Amaya, of Iowa, to Northeastern University and to its Latino Community. Stop by the center to meet him if you have not done so already before the semester is over!

Jose has only been on campus for a couple weeks but has already made his presence known from attending the Jaime Escalante event on his second day, participating in the LSCC Cocinar con Gusto series, and simply being available to service the students and assist where needed. I am confident that the LSCC is in good hands and welcome Director Jose.

Visit LSCC online: www.lsccl.neu.edu

Inside this issue:

Cover Page: Letter from the Editor/ Important news	1
Recap of LASO Happenings	2
LASO Leaders	3
Society of Latino Alumni (SOLA)	3
Latinos Leaving NU	4
Calendar of Events	5
Support LASO / Contact information	6



Latino/a Student Cultural Center
104 Forsyth Street
Boston, MA 02115
M-F Time...



HMM, Halloween, and Community Service

LASO had a very busy fall semester with many events, meetings, and outings. Hispanic Heritage Month or HMM consisted of 9 events ranging from Latin Nights with special guest artists to guest speakers like Esmeralda Santiago. Our Latin Nights broke After Hours records by having more people come through than any other past events, 581. We also hosted Incason a musical group who showcased traditional music from Peru as one of our cultural events. Elections were also something to address as we want our members to be active participants in society and so we provided members with voter registration forms. We also recognized that October 2nd. was LEAD, Latino Education and Advocacy Day. A movie showing took place on this day showing Stand and Deliver and the voter registration forms were passed out at the end. Jaime Escalante, the teacher who is portrayed in the movie, was a special guest a few weeks later.



After HMM came Halloween and soon Thanksgiving. This year's Halloween was like no other for some of the nearby neighborhood kids. LASO, with the support of many other campus organizations, hosted a Halloween Carnival for the kids who live close to campus as well as those who participate in after school programs and youth programs around the University. There were many Northeastern student volunteers who helped run different activity tables such as bob the apples and decorating pumpkins. There was even a Haunted trail behind the dorms with a storyline created by LASO member Elaine Leitao. This event was a success because of all the contributions the students made to the cause. LASO values community service and this event was a unique way to service those who live close by.



LASO recently participated in a community service outing to Community Servings in Roxbury, MA. Community Servings is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing free home-delivered meals to people homebound with life-threatening illnesses. On November 14, eleven LASO members including myself volunteered at this organization. Every member who I spoke to afterwards about the organization told me that they wanted to return. It is great to know that people want to do service and that those are the kind of members LASO has.



LASO aims to create a sense of *familia* in all they do. The annual potluck held by the Latino Student Cultural Center was a success. This was a night of sharing and good food provided by the LSCC and members of the organizations present. LASO has also made a couple trips after the weekly meeting to have dinner as a *familia* to restaurants like Merengue, a favorite of the group's. More recently, members took the stage at Limelight Stage and Studios, as they sung karaoke and had lots of fun. We look forward to doing it again in the spring! To end the semester with good memories we had a sleep-over where we played many games, and ate more junk food than was good for us. Lastly, an outing to the movies (tickets provided) will take place after the last meeting of the semester.



Interested in doing community service?

Contact me @ Jessica_lasovpea@yahoo.com



Outstanding LASO Leaders: Janine and Joel

Janine Miller, junior Communications major, has been in LASO for two and a half years. She has been heavily involved in LASO since joining. In past years, Janine has been involved in several committees for events including the Date Auction, Staff Appreciation Day, and My Big Fat Latino Cultural Show. Janine is eager to join everything and anything including being in last year's senior banquet video. In just one semester, Janine has continued to demonstrate outstanding dedication to LASO. At LASO meetings, she has led an ice breaker, helped delegate conversations in LASO discussions and has helped lead a team to win Latino/a Jeopardy. She continues to excel by being the team leader of the Fundraising Committee as well as co-team leader of LASO and Legacy 2000 connections. She is also on the Fashion Show Committee, the Staff Appreciation Day Committee, and plans to work on a talent show for next year. Janine has done so much for LASO. Of her involvement in LASO Janine has said: "Each year I feel as though there is something more for me to do. I feel more and more involved in the organization and the people. I feel more connected to the family."

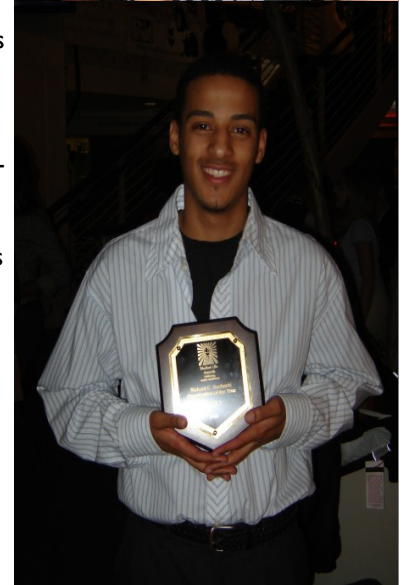
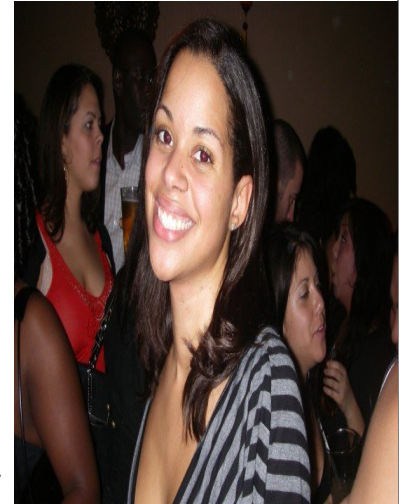
We definitely appreciate Janine's hard work, dedication, and shining personality! Janine has been a motivated and dedicated LASO member as well as an amazing person outside of LASO. She is definitely someone to look up to and to be celebrated!

Joelison Castillo, sophomore Business major, has been in LASO for one and a half years. In this short amount of time, Joel has made a great impact in LASO. Freshman year, Joel was involved in almost all aspects of LASO. He was LASO's SGA Representative and worked hand in hand with the e-team on many projects. On top of being the SGA Rep, Joel was also involved in almost all event planning committees throughout the year including the Date Auction Committee, My Big Fat Latino Cultural Show committee, and the Senior Banquet Committee. For all of his efforts last year, Joel was awarded "Freshman of the Year" at the senior banquet. Joel continues to excel this year with his involvement and enthusiasm. So far this semester, Joel has already led a meeting and is currently team leading the Staff Worker Appreciation event. This is his first time leading a committee and he is doing an excellent job! Of his involvement in LASO Joel has said:

"[Team leading] has helped me to gain confidence and skills to run a group or team."

We are confident that Joel will go far in LASO and in life. His dedication and welcoming personality will continue to showcase his outstanding abilities in the future. Joelison is a great member and person and will undoubtedly continue to shine in LASO, school, and in years to come!!

-Cali Nguyen, LASO Secretary



Society of Latino Alumni-SOLA

<http://sola.alumni.neu.edu/>

Congratulations to the new officers of SOLA!

The Society of Latino Alumni has continued to support LASO and we would like to say thank you for doing so. LASO aims to continuously teach its history to the members because we believe that it is important to know and appreciate its founders.

Here are the new officers:

President: José E. Colón

Executive Vice President: Carlos Brussa

For a complete list visit <http://sola.alumni.neu.edu/>

Be sure to visit the website for many opportunities available including volunteering, job postings, and upcoming events!



"Ensure the continued progress and excellence of Northeastern University's Latino Community and support and promote the Northeastern University Alumni Association."

-Mission Statement



Latinos leaving Northeastern University

It is beginning to be a bit too common to hear that another Latino at Northeastern University will be leaving. I found out about three in only a few weeks and wonder what is causing this recent trend. The Latino community here at Northeastern has said goodbye to three well known and important individuals this semester: Raul Fernandez, Carmen Perez, and Alejandra Lombardo.

Raul Fernandez, LASO advisor, worked for Northeastern's Marketing department and has recently left to work at Boston University. He brought diversity to that department as there was very little to begin with. Raul was a great support for LASO and continues to be a support although no longer in the University. We appreciate his time and dedication to the students and in helping the E-team.

Carmen Perez, NU graduate and former LASO member, has been working for Admissions and has dedicated a lot of her time to visiting High Schools in different states and abroad to bring in more diverse students. She found that the students were coming in but were not staying for long or doing too well. There was a bigger issue at hand, and that was to help prepare high school students to go to college and ready to succeed while there. She is now a counselor at a high school in Rhode Island. She will be missed.

Alejandra Lombardo, NU graduate and former LASO member, has been Assistant Director and recently Interim Director of the LSCC. This is her last semester here. Alejandra has always been welcoming to students coming to the center and has played numerous roles as LASO advisor, teacher, and friend. She has planned many LSCC events and has represented the center well in her time here. Alejandra could never be replaced and I want to personally thank her for all her time and dedication to us students and for always being there when we needed her.

Good luck to those leaving. We will miss you very much and hope that you stay connected in some way or another. You will always have a place here in our Northeastern Latino community.



January 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
				1st LASO mtg		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
					Famila Trip	Familia Trip
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Familia Trip		Breaking the Barriers				Date Auction
28	29	30	31			

February 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			4	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
				Taino Speaker		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			



**Northeastern University
Latin American Student Organization**

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**Visit us online @
www.laso.neu.edu**

**Our weekly meetings are every Thursday at 6pm.
Locations: TBA**

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