

# CHICANO/LATINO FACULTY STAFF ASSOCIATION

March 2011

Issue 1

*Gabriela Dolores Miranda de la Piedra*



**The Chicano/Latino Faculty and Staff Association** was established with the arrival of a critical mass of Raza faculty, staff, and students in the late 1960's. One of the most important missions of **CLFSA** (formerly known as the Hispanic Faculty and Staff Association) was to be vigilant about recruiting, hiring, retaining and promoting Chicana/os at every level of university life. While students were not part of the group, CLFSA viewed students as important to insuring a presence on university campuses—they were/are seen as the pipeline from the community to the academy. Thus, the major accomplishment of the organization was the establishment of a scholarship named for Dr. Ernesto Galarza which was intended to address the economic difficulties students face in pursuing their academic endeavors. The Scholarship has been given to over 300 students and has been in existence since the early 80's. The scholarship has been funded with donations from campus faculty and staff, local community businesses, and as legacy endowments from a few people. CLFSA established an endowment for the scholarship in 1982.

In 2009 we were fortunate to receive a most generous donation from the estate of **Gabriela Dolores Miranda de la Piedra** (1935-2008) who had a strong passion for young people and education. An immigrant to the United States from Mexico City, Gabriela came on a visa in 1959 initially to Texas and eventually settled in San Jose. From 1970 to 1995 Gabriela worked for Pacific Bell where she was involved in union activism, civil rights and efforts to end discrimination. Her gracious commitment led her to endow in her will a gift to insure access to higher education for her community. It is our fortune that providence brought her gift to the Dr. Galarza Scholarship at this juncture of financial instability. In September of 2010 we announced her gift at the Fall reception of CLFSA—her good friends Tanya Freudenberger and Kim Mesa, attended the celebration stating that Gabriela would have been so happy and proud of the meaning of her legacy. Gabriela's gift is now immortalized in the scholarships she facilitates and insures that her love of justice, education and life will reach the Chicana/o students whom we support.

Because of Gabriela's generous donation CLFSA is now able to begin a campaign to build an endowment for the Chicano Library Resource Collection located at the King Library's Cultural Heritage Center. We encourage you to attend our meetings and to consider emulating the generosity exhibited by Gabriela by donating to CLFSA for the CLRC or the Scholarship.

If you wish to support the scholarship endowment or the Chicano Library Resource Collection you may do so directly at the Tower Foundation of SJSU or contact Julia Curry at [Julia.Curry@sjsu.edu](mailto:Julia.Curry@sjsu.edu) or by phone at 408.924.5310 to discuss options.

## CURRENT CLFSA OFFICERS

**President** - Dr. Julia E. Curry Rodriguez

**Vice President** - Dr. George Castro

**Treasurer** - Elma Arredondo

**Secretary** - Valerie Gonzales

**Dr. Ernesto Galarza Scholarship  
Committee Chair** - Blanca Millan

**Dr. Ernesto Galarza Scholarship  
Symposium Chair** - Kathryn Blackmer Reyes



## Chicano/Latino Faculty & Staff Association

c/o Dr. Julia E. Curry Rodriguez  
Mexican American Studies  
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San José, CA 95192-0118

<http://www.sjsu.edu/clfsa/>

# DR. ERNESTO GALARZA SCHOLARSHIP

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Galarza Scholarship  
Community Reception  
Thursday, April 21, 2011  
5 - 7 pm  
Mezcal Restaurant, San Jose

Mexican American Studies  
Symposium  
Saturday, April 23, 2011  
MLK Library Room 225/229

Dr. Ernesto Galarza Scholarship  
Ceremony  
Thursday, May 12, 2011  
6 - 8pm  
Cultural Heritage Center, MLK



## Jonathan Alcántar

Recipient of the 2006 Dr. Galarza Scholarship

“To think is to serve” is a powerful aphorism written by José Martí to express the importance of serving a purpose through thought and education. This same idea resembles the legacy and commitment of Dr. Ernesto Galarza to our community. I found that purpose six years ago while presenting ideas on Latin-American unity to my classmates in a Spanish literature course. The adrenaline rush of lecturing

the class about two of my favorite authors made me realize that my future was in the world of academia. I knew that the pathway to graduate school would be a long and difficult one, but I was determined to overcome any obstacles to get there.

In 2009 I began my studies in the Ph.D. program of the Spanish Department at UC Davis. I have successfully completed two years as a student and Teaching Associate. During my first quarter I learned more about pedagogical methods and how to implement them when teaching Spanish to non-native and native speakers. This training along with my Teaching Associate experience at San Jose State has enhanced my understanding of different approaches and issues involved in teaching a foreign language. In 2010, due to my interest in Latin American and Luso-Brazilian studies, I was appointed to collaborate with Professor Robert Newcomb in a new course entitled “Globalized Brazil” through the Humanities Department. This same year I received the CSU Chancellor’s Doctoral Incentive Fellowship. I am currently teaching Portuguese (1, 2 and 3) and organizing the first Luso-Brazilian club on campus.

One of my research pursuits, as a graduate student, is the study of Indianess in twentieth and twenty first century Latin American literature and cinema. Growing up near the Mexican border, I became fascinated by the points at which literature and cinema converge to address social and cultural problems. Specifically, I am keen to study this phenomenon by focusing on the textual and visual imagery of indigenous people after the 1994 Zapatista uprising in Chiapas. This topic is pivotal to understanding indigenous people today. I have not found a clear exploration of the influence of such political movements in Mexican literature and cinema, so I hope to fill this void by looking at literary and film productions that revolve around what I call post-Zapatista *indigenismo*.

Like thousands of students at San Jose State University, I found in the faculty of the Chicano studies and Spanish Department a welcoming environment. They became academic platforms that propelled me toward new horizons. I learned through them that learning and education are reciprocal and involved the university and the community. I understood that to transmit knowledge is to expand it beyond the walls of our campuses.

My hope is to emulate these academic values and help other students to carry on this vision. As a mentor and a professor, I will strive to always make a difference in the lives of my students. This is the legacy of Jose Martí and Dr. Ernesto Galarza, one that teaches us not only to think but to act.

## VOLUNTEER DONATE PARTICIPATE



### Become a member of the CLFSA

[http://www.sjsu.edu/clfsa/docs/Membership\\_Form.pdf](http://www.sjsu.edu/clfsa/docs/Membership_Form.pdf)

Spring Meetings:  
April 8 – 11:30am  
May 6 – 12:00pm

**“TO THINK IS TO SERVE”**  
-JOSÉ MARTÍ

# STUDENT FEATURE

## 2010/2011 Dr. Ernesto Garlarza Scholarship Recipients



The Chicano/Latino Faculty and Staff Association (CLFSA) of San José State University sponsors the annual **Dr. Ernesto Galarza**

as a means of honoring Dr. Galarza's scholarly commitment and contributions to the Chicano/Latino community and to foster that same commitment in our youth. These scholarships are given in collaboration with local community groups to assist students in their pursuit of higher education at San José State University. The CLFSA gives these scholarships in honor of Dr. Galarza to address some of the barriers students face in their endeavors to succeed in higher education. The Dr. Ernesto Galarza Institute, a community-based organization, provides scholarships to incoming transfer students from SJCC, EVC, or NHU.

**Apply NOW**

Application deadline is April 8, 2011.  
<http://www.sjsu.edu/clfsa/Scholarship>



*Dr. Ernesto Galarza Scholar*  
**Bianca Rivera**



*National Association for Chicana/o Studies - Northern California Foco & Chicano/Latino Faculty and Staff Association Scholarship*  
**Karla Flores**



*Dr. Ernesto Galarza Institute Scholar*  
**Michael Garcia**



*Dr. Ernesto Galarza Institute Scholar*  
**Maria Valencia**



*Marisol Perez Memorial Scholarship*  
**Oscar Catarino**



*Chicano/Latino Faculty & Staff Association Scholarship*  
**Erika Garcia**

## Rebeca Burciaga



Works by **Jose Antonio Burciaga** include:

- Drink Cultura: Chicanismo
- Spilling the Beans: Loteria Chicana
- Wee-dee Peepo: A Collection of Essays
- Undocumented Love/Amor Indocumentado: A Personal Anthology of Poetry
- In Few Words / En Pocas Palabras: A Compendium of Latino Folk Wit and Wisdom

If you would like to have an item posted in the CLFSA newsletter, please contact **Valerie Gonzales** via email at: [valerie.gonzales@sjsu.edu](mailto:valerie.gonzales@sjsu.edu)

*This is my first year as an Assistant Professor in the Connie L. Lurie College of Education in the Educational Leadership Department. I was drawn to the Department of Educational Leadership at San José State because of their social justice focus and their work to prepare educational administrators to improve opportunities to learn in schools for Students of Color and underrepresented students. Of the many places I applied, this was among the few where I could continue my teaching and research using critical lenses (such as Critical Race Theory and Chicana Feminist Theories) to understand the challenges and opportunities for Students of Color in schools. **In many ways, the Department of Educational Leadership felt and feels like an academic home where I could bridge my passions for Education and Ethnic Studies.***

*Like many Chicanos and Latinos, my grandparents came to this country for more opportunities. Their struggles to provide for their children fortunately resulted in both of my parents becoming the first in their families to attend college. As some of the first Chicanas/os to attend college in the 1960s, my parents became critical advocates for Chicano education. My mother, Cecilia Preciado Burciaga, became one of the highest ranking Chicana administrators in higher education. My father, Jose Antonio Burciaga, became a writer, muralist, artist, and poet of Chicanismo. This said, I was raised with a strong sense that education was more than schooling. In addition, I was raised to value educación - a word in Spanish that extends education to include values such as respect, integrity and community responsibility. **As the daughter of Chicano activists, I grew up seeing how hard our elders worked to improve opportunities and as a result, how hard I also would have to work to keep paths open for others who come after me.***

*Dr. Burciaga's current work includes:*

- [Dissertation and current work: Chicana Ph.D. Students - the pipeline from birth to the professoriate](#)
  - [Chicana Ph.D. Students' Aspirations of the Professoriate](#)
  - [The Roles of Education and Educación in the Persistence of Chicana Ph.D. Students](#)
  - [The Roles of Community Cultural Wealth in the Persistence of Chicana Ph.D. Students](#)
- [Related work \(UC Davis postdoc 2009-2010\) : Students who left school before graduating](#)
  - [Dropouts: Young Adults Challenging Assumptions, Revealing Wealth, Wisdom, and Hope in Hardship](#)
  - [Community Cultural Wealth Amidst School Disengagement: Ethnographies of Youth \(Dis\)Connection in the Sacramento Region](#)
  - [Placing Resource Inequities in Regional Contexts.](#)

*Dr. Burciaga has a long list of special awards beginning with the 1998 – 1999 Harvard Graduate School of Education, Diversity Innovation Fund Grant, and most recently the 2010 – 2011 CSU Research Funds Award*

**Rebeca, Welcome to San Jose State University!**