

PA'LANTE

UNIDOS NEWSLETTER



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"Es mejor vivir en el presente que tratar de predecir el porvenir. It is better to live in the present than try to predict the future."

San Isidro, Lima, Perú: Imágenes del presente

By Arnaldo Cordero-Roman, associate professor of Spanish

From the 4th to the 6th of March, I was very fortunate to have participated in the XXV Congreso Internacional de Literatura y Estudios Hispánicos held in San Isidro, a district of Lima, Peru. My scholarly academic mission there was to lead a panel discussion, *Fe, mitos y fotografía en las culturas hispánicas*, and to present a creative project entitled *Imágenes de intelecto, literatura y fotografía*. In higher education, international conferencing/networking is part of our profession. It keeps us current in our respective fields, engaged and committed to a research agenda. Varied inter-disciplinary interests in the humanities and beyond help sustain and connect the relevance of our ongoing work; not only to the institutions where we teach but to the communities at large. I was probably one of the last, if not the last, faculty member from Stockton University to travel abroad, staying just one step away, on the brink of the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic. Upon my return from Lima, I began to review some of the photographic images that I was able to capture while walking through the San Isidro District immediately before and after the symposium, El Congreso. Just scroll down to view some images.



San Isidore, the name...

San Isidro, San Isidore, San Ysidro is widely known as the patron saint of farmers, peasants, day laborers, all who work the land, including brick layers. San Isidore, the farmer, is also the patron saint of Madrid, his hometown, as well as other cities in Spain, such as Leon, Zaragoza and Seville. There are many more countries across the continents that honor him, even here in the United States: San Ysidro, California, and San Ysidro, New Mexico, among countless other global locations –in Asia, the Americas (Central, North and South), and throughout the Caribbean. Many in the Hispanic World are linked in some way to this legendary figure whose miraculous feats from medieval times, always emphasized the dignity of work, that ordinary life can lead to spirituality, holiness...“that if you have your spiritual self in order, your earthly commitments will also fall into place”. For centuries across the globe, May 15th has been celebrated as the Feast Day of San Isidro with festivals, processions, floats, traditional and modern fiestas, elaborate community organized cultural events, all paying homage to San Isidro, the patron saint of workers, los labradores. San Isidore, was born in Madrid on Nov. 30th, 1172.



Patrick Duffy tells his story in catholicireland.net.

Farm-labourer

Born of devout parents, Isidore was named by them after St Isidore of Seville. He worked all his life as a farm-labourer for the same farmer, John de Vargas, at Torrelaguna, outside Madrid, Spain, the city of which he is now the patron saint.

His wife, Maria Toribia

He was a model worker, a kind neighbour and a most devout Christian. His wife, Maria Toribia, resembled him in character and is popularly looked upon as a saint in Spain. They had a son, who died young; after that they live together as brother and sister.

Reputation for holiness and miracles

Isidore would rise early to visit a church and he prayed for long periods while he was guiding the plough. He would spend his holidays on visits to local shrines. One story about him is that his employer, John, who had accused Isidore of arriving late for work, had a vision of a second team of white oxen led by angels ploughing alongside Isidore. Another story tells that while Isidore was giving half of a bag of corn he had on his back to the birds, his yield of flour kept miraculously increasing.

May 15th is the Feast Day of San Isidore.
(Modern image from Ireland)

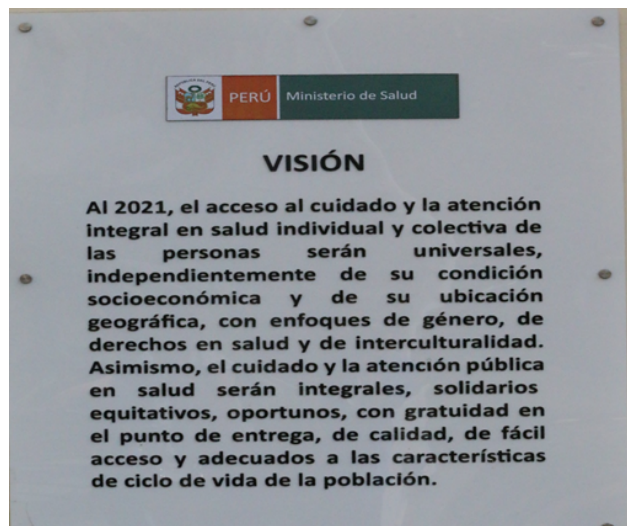




El Distrito San Isidro en la Provincia de Lima, Perú...

Officially established in 1930, today the coastal San Isidro District in Lima is one of the major financial districts in the Americas. It is Peru's financial center and houses more than 60 embassies and consulates. San Isidro is an upscale, exclusive banking and commerce area. With a population of over 70, 000 people, the San Isidro District has many green spaces. A casual walk through the major avenues and green pedestrian pathways, will lead to encounters with a multitude of monuments honoring Peruvian leaders, illustrious men and women, literary icons as well as influential internationally renowned figures.





Homework Completion Program

Stockton Center for Community Engagement

Photos at right: director Merydawilda Colón, police officers and volunteer students help children complete school work.

AC sites are in partnership with the Atlantic City Police Department (ACPD), and Atlantic City Housing Authority. Pleasantville site is a collaboration between the SCCE, the Pleasantville Police Department (PPD), and the City of Pleasantville.

The primary goal of the Homework Completion Program is to engage children in their schoolwork and offer children a vision into the potential of a future college education. The program is also meant to foster trust in local police officers.

The program began in the Fall 2014 semester. It operated from September 2014 to June 2015 and assisted students in Kindergarten through 6th grade. As of the Fall 2020 semester, it now includes students up to the 12th grade. University transportation for Stockton student tutors is available to three of the four Homework Completion program sites

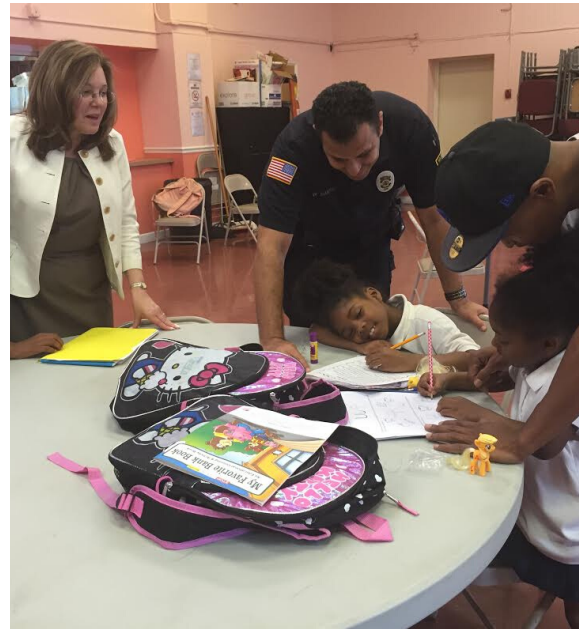
Currently there are 188 volunteers and 158 student participants in four programs:

- Stanley S. Holmes Village
- Buzby Homes Village
- Maryland Avenue
- Pleasantville Public Library

Click [here](#) for more information.

“

“Youth report that they feel “happy” when they see a police officer...”



Learning Spanish in the community

By Gorica Majstorovic, professor of Spanish

Stockton University is “a designated Carnegie institution” and a nationally recognized engaged campus. Spanish Community-Based Learning was conducted in LANG 3257 Proficiency Methodology in Spanish course in Fall 2019. The course was building on the program learning outcomes and was aligned with Stockton ELOs, in particular with “Adapting to Change” and “Communication Skills”.

LANG 3257 Proficiency Methodology in Spanish focused on integrating service learning with an engaged pedagogy that values community partners as co-educators: the course guided students towards the enhancement of their adaptive strategies to change and towards enhanced communication skills in Spanish. It reflected on integration of academic content (using a traditional textbook, *Revista* by Vista Higher Learning) and the “lived text” of the work in the community by encouraging students to develop and apply communicative skills in Spanish. In Fall 2019, ten students (all Spanish majors and minors) conducted Service-Learning projects in LANG 3257 Proficiency Methodology in Spanish with focus on Latino/a art, children’s literature, translation / interpretation, health, immigration, and more. Examples of the Latino-serving organizations and a wide range of local institutions included the following:

- assisting conjoined twins in Spanish learning at Stockton University
- teaching Spanish at Free to Be Early Childhood Education Center located on the campus of Stockton University
- teaching ESL at Caring for Kids, Cape May Court House
- Homework completion program at the Pleasantville Library and Salvation Army, Atlantic City
- Health Fare and other activities at the Spanish Community Center, Ventnor
- assisting at risk youth at Upward Bound, Camden
- mounting the Soraida Martinez exhibit at the Noyes Arts Garage in Atlantic City

Students’ SL interactions included tutoring Latino youth after-school, reading Spanish children’s literature to pre-K through 8th graders at a local library, assisting adult ESL and citizenship classes, bilingual pre-schools, and writing as well as translating exhibit materials for a renowned Latina artist, among others. By focusing on literacy-readiness, vocabulary building, reading and writing in a diverse community setting, all students reported increased communication skills in Spanish as well as increased abilities in “adaptation to change”; in doing so, they contributed to strengthened partnerships with community and Stockton campuses in both Galloway and Atlantic City.

Service Learning: Spanish majors Margeline Santos y Samantha Crawford fuse colors, art and culture in their language lessons.

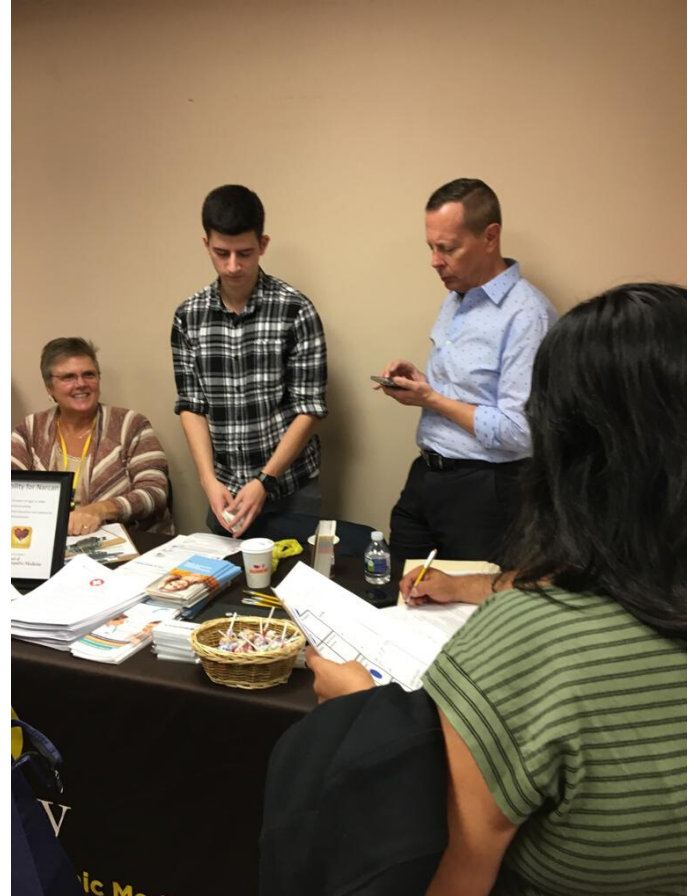


CELEBRANDO EL DIA DE LOS MUERTOS

Free to Be Daycare children learn to identify colors in Spanish as they create masks



Learning from graphic artwork to draw lines, add colors and create expressions.



Second from left, Spanish major Andrés Arteaga works the information table at a community event.



Will Puerto Rico be Left to Drown?

By Arleen González, associate professor of Criminal Justice

Aurelius Investments, LLC v Puerto Rico

In the 2019-2020 term, the U.S. Supreme Court will hear four consolidated cases regarding the validity of appointees to the Financial Management and Oversight Board created under PROMESA. PROMESA, the acronym for the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management and Economic Stability Act passed by Congress in 2016. Puerto Rico is an unincorporated territory of the United States. Although Spain had previously granted Puerto Rico a degree of autonomy at the end of the Spanish-American War in 1898, Spain ceded Puerto Rico to the United States. The United States Army led by General Nelson Miles, arrived in Puerto Rico and a U.S. military government was established. In 1917, under the Jones-Shafroth Act, the United States made Puerto Ricans U.S. Citizens. In the early 1900's a series of U.S. Supreme Court cases, referred to as the Insular Cases, held that although Puerto Ricans were citizens of the United States, if they resided in Puerto Rico they were not entitled to full constitutional protections. Some prominent legal scholars have referred to this relationship as that of a colony.

The Jones-Shafroth Act also allowed the issuance of triple tax-exempt bonds (local, state and federal taxes) to anyone regardless of residence. Puerto Rico's municipal bonds were thus, very attractive to investors. For many years, the United States offered tax incentives to corporations conducting business in Puerto Rico. Additionally, in 1976, the United States provided under Section 936 of the U.S. Tax Code a tax exemption for corporate income earned in the U.S. territories. For a short period of time, Puerto Ricans were able to find relatively good paying jobs in manufacturing. In 1996, Congress enacted legislation that would phase out Section 936 over a ten-year period to end in 2006. Most of the companies left Puerto Rico, and Puerto Rico went into a deep recession. To make up for the enormous loss, Puerto Rico continued to issue the triple tax-exempt bonds to fund the government. In 2014, credit agencies downgraded Puerto Rico's bonds to junk status. The downgrade triggered an acceleration clause in the relevant contracts that required Puerto Rico to pay bondholders quickly. In 2015, then Governor Alejandro Garcia Padilla announced that Puerto Rico was 72 billion dollars in debt and that it was unable to pay.

Prior to 1984, Puerto Rico's municipalities could declare bankruptcy under Title IX of the Bankruptcy Code. Mysteriously, in 1984 Title 9 was amended to specifically exclude Puerto Rico from this relief. The Financial Oversight and Management Board created under PROMESA was able to restructure some of Puerto Rico's debt and in May 2017 arranged for bankruptcy relief for the island. Shortly thereafter, several hedge funds filed suit in federal District Court alleging that the bankruptcy process was not constitutional. PROMESA was enacted under Article IV of the Constitution that provides in part: "The Congress shall have power to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States."

In other words, all decisions regarding Puerto Rico's finances were to be made by the Oversight Board under the plenary powers of the Territorial Clause. Except for an ex officio member representing the government of Puerto Rico, all Board members were appointed by the President of the United States. Aurelius Investments, LLC. is arguing that the Board members should have been appointed under the Appointments Clause of the US Constitution because they are essentially federal officers.

As such, the President needed to seek the advice and consent of the Senate prior to their appointment. The United States and Puerto Rico are arguing that the appointments were made under the absolute power granted under the Territorial Clause because the members are territorial officers acting on behalf of Puerto Rico. A decision in support of Aurelius would invalidate the Board and the work it has done. The First Circuit Court of Appeals decided that the members should have been appointed under the Appointments Clause of Article 2 and were thus invalid. The Court, however, also held that the de facto officer doctrine applied in this case. This doctrine states that an officer who has been acting under color of law and is later discovered to have been appointed unlawfully is still acting validly. The cases were argued before the US Supreme Court on October 15, 2019, the Justice's questions appeared to show skepticism regarding the hedge funds' true motives. A decision will likely not be announced until June 2020.

References:

U.S. Supreme Court Consolidated Cases: 18-1496 Official Committee of Debtors v. Aurelius LLC, 18-1475 Aurelius Investments LLC v Puerto Rico, 18-1514 United States v Aurelius Investments, 18-1334 Financial Oversight Board v Aurelius Investment, 18-1521 UTIER v. Financial Oversight Board
First Circuit Court
of Appeals: 18-1671,18-1746, 18-1787 Aurelius Investments LLC v Commonwealth of
Puerto Rico, ET AL New York Times The Curious Case of Aurelius Investment Capital
v. Puerto Rico, 11/26/19



!Pa'lante! with the NFL

By Dr. Pedro J. Santana, founding member and president of UNIDOS, faculty and staff organization

Super Bowl LIV, the 54th Super Bowl and the commemoration of the 50th modern-era National Football League (NFL) was significant for several reasons. First, it marks the second time that the Kansas City Chiefs win a Super Bowl since their prior win in 1969. Second, Super Bowl LIV can also be viewed as one that opens a new era by expanding its reach to a latent Hispanic market with a viewership of approximately 60 million in the United States; and over a half a billion estimated Spanish speaking people across the world.

For the first time in Super Bowl history all the performances were staged by Latinas. Many observers single out these leading artists as key national economic drivers in the entertainment industry. All three halftime show blockbuster performers are huge international Hispanic celebrities. Demi Lovato's father was of Mexican descent. Jennifer Lopez is Puerto Rican; and superstar Shakira is Colombian. This is the first nod the NFL has made towards the "browning" of America. Many Latino artists and their respective homelands acknowledge not only the talent and beauty but the rich cultural diversity that define Hispanic cultures. We represent the ancestral definition and fusion of the Native American, the European and the African. However, it does not stop there. The richness is further promulgated by Asians, and a milieu of religious traditions not limited to Catholics, Christians, Jews, and Muslims, among others.

The Hispanic/Latino population within the United States is expected to grow. According to data from the Pew Research Center, "Hispanics will rise from 14% of the population in 2005 to 29% in 2050". Furthermore, the Pew Research Center states that "The nation's population will expand to 438 million in 2050, from 296 million in 2005, and fully 82% of the growth during this period will be due to immigrants arriving from 2005 to 2050 and their descendants". The overall size of the Hispanic/Latino market will double during this period". The numbers are astounding. They are further expounded when we take into considerations the overall power of compounding economics. In its annual report, the Selig Center for Economic Growth at the University of Georgia's business school pegged the total buying power of the US Hispanic population at \$1.539 trillion in 2018 having increased by \$500 billion since 2010. They predict that this figure will grow to nearly \$400 billion more by the year 2023.

“The nation’s population will rise to 438 million in 2050, from 296 million in 2005, and fully 82% of the growth during this period will be due to immigrants arriving from 2005 to 2050 and their descendants”.

Like many corporations, non-profits, health care organizations, K-12 school districts and higher education institutions, many Hispanics are jumping on board and trying to figure out how they can cater to and provide products, goods and services to this growing population. The Hispanic market will fuel a considerable amount of the US GDP in the future. With Super Bowl LIV, the NFL took a step into the present to plan for their future by catering to a growing community of supporters of the league. A number that still needs considerable attention is the overall number of players of Hispanic Descent within the NFL.

A report titled, TIDES: The Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport, Making Waves of Change published by Dr. Richard Lapchick and his colleagues at the University of Central Florida in October 2019 provided data stating that Latinos represented 2.2% or 8 of the NFL Vice Presidents within the league. In that same TIDES report the statistics provided on the Hispanic or Latino players within the league for 2019 represented a sheer 0.5% or 8 players out of a reported total for the year of 1,657 players which is down from a high of 1.0% or 30 players in the league in 2007 out of a total of 2,414 reported players. The report goes further to provide additional percentages of Hispanic and Latino representation within the League with 6.6% or 62 Hispanics and Latinos within League offices; 3.1% or 1 Latino Head coach; 1% or 6 Hispanic and Latino Assistant Coaches; 0% or 0 Hispanic and Latino General Manager/Director of Player Personnel and 0% or 0 Hispanic and Latino CEOs.

Given these numbers, I celebrate the nod the NFL has given the Hispanic and Latino community and would like to encourage the NFL to continue building the future of the league with the Hispanic and Latino community in mind.

UNIDOS in the Community



On April 21 and May 2, the Hispanic Association of Atlantic County held two food drives for local residents at the Boys & Girls Club of Atlantic City & Our Lady of the Sea Church.





UNIDOS in the Community

Members of Stockton UNIDOS volunteered for two food distributions in Atlantic City's 4th, 5th, & 6th wards neighboring the Stockton Atlantic City Campus.



HISPANIC ASSOCIATION OF ATLANTIC COUNTY

DISTRIBUCIÓN DE COMIDA
SABADO, 2 DE MAYO + 10AM



OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA
(PARQUEADERO)
15 N. CALIFORNIA AVE
ATLANTIC CITY, NJ 08401



LA DESPENSA SE DISTRIBUIRÁ POR ORDEN DE LLEGADA
A LAS PRIMERA 500 FAMILIAS, SOLO UNA CANASTA
DE ALIMENTOS POR HOGAR. POR FAVOR PRESENTE
IDENTIFICACIÓN O PRUEBA DE DIRECCIÓN
(D, PASAPORTE, MATRICULA, CUENTA DE UTILIDADES, BANCO, ETC.)





What We're Listening to & Reading

NPR CODE SWITCH:

[The All-Women Mariachi Group That's Lifting Our Spirits](#)

WASHINGTON POST:

[José Andrés: Our People Are Hungry. We Need a Leader Who Will Feed Them.](#)

Community Resources

CULTURA UNIDA – WWW.CULTURAUNIDA.ORG

Informacion Y Recursos Del COVID-19 Para Nuestra Comunidad Latina

NEW JERSEY COVID-19 INFORMATION HUB – WWW.COVID19.NJ.GOV

The official COVID-19 Information Hub for the State of New Jersey

Roxana Pérez-Nieves and Arnaldo Cordero-Román thank all who collaborated to make this second edition possible.

The Pa'lante Newsletter keeps us UNIDOS.

