



SPRING 2026 & FALL 2026

NEWSLETTER



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860.832.0056

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FOR FALL 2026



DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Welcome to the Spring 2026 LALCC Newsletter. It was a busy semester, filled with exciting programs and important challenges facing the communities we serve.

Student engagement remains central to the LALCC. All students in our Applied Learning Internship Program successfully completed the semester, with three graduating in May, while 15 will continue with us this fall through Central's new Career Launch program. We are also proud to see former student workers Isabele de Souza, BS'25, and Adriana Disdiel, BS'24, thriving in their careers. Both will join us at our Salsa Fest on September 22.

Last spring, we welcomed artists and scholars including Roj Rodriguez, Johanné Gómez Terrero, Alejandro Velasco, and Sara Tosh, whose presentations enriched the academic life of our campus community.

We also mourn the loss of our dear friend and benefactor, Dr. Gilberto Cárdenas. His visit to Central last December and generous support helped make possible the LALCC's first art exhibition in collaboration with the Chen Art Gallery. We are deeply grateful for his friendship and lasting contributions to Latino Studies and art.

As we look toward the fall, we remain committed to supporting our students and celebrating Latino, Latin American, and Caribbean history, culture, scholarship, and the arts. We look forward to another semester of meaningful programming and community engagement.

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MI SANGRE

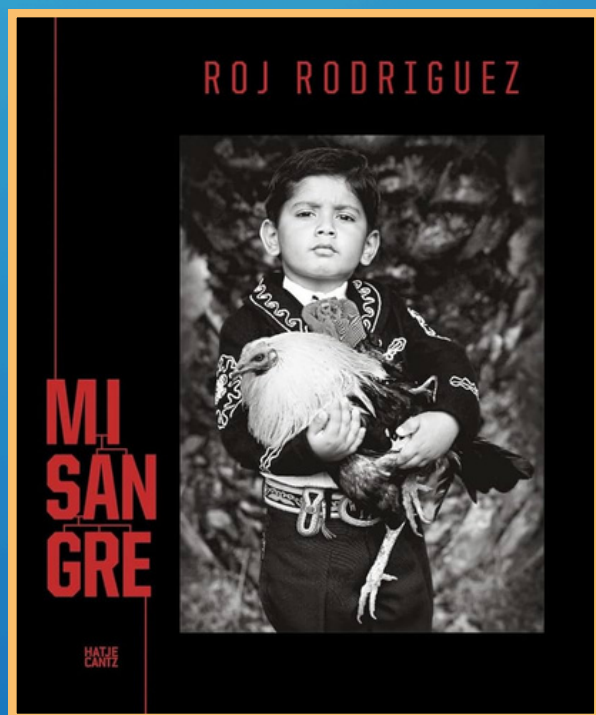
With Roj Rodriguez
Independent Photographer



On Tuesday, March 31, the Latino and Puerto Rican Studies Minor and the LALCC hosted a photographic exploration and presentation with independent photographer Roj Rodriguez.

Visiting from Austin, Texas, Rodriguez joined the campus community to discuss his multiple award winning book, *Mi Sangre*. What began as a personal photo documentation project retracing his Mexican roots evolved into a moving visual journey capturing Mexican-American culture and everyday life on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border.

Dedicated to farmworkers across the country and survivors of sexual assault, the engaging conversation and visual presentation offered a moment of solidarity and cultural reflection on campus.



CRUDE TACTICS

Venezuela, the U.S., and the Future of Resource Sovereignty in the Americas



**With Alejandro Velasco, Ph.D.
Professor of Latin American History,
New York University**

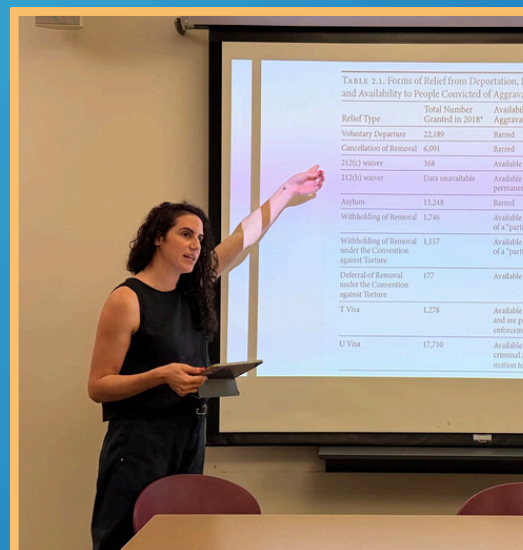
On Tuesday, April 7, the LALCC hosted a special open lecture featuring Dr. Alejandro Velasco, Associate Professor of Latin American History at New York University. His presentation titled "Crude Tactics: Venezuela, the U.S., and the Future of Resource Sovereignty in the Americas," offered students and the campus community a deep dive into the current global landscape, resource politics, and regional sovereignty. Dr. Velasco, an award winning author and expert on urban politics and social movements in Venezuela, shared insights from his extensive research, engaging audience members in a thought provoking conversation on the complex history of the relationship between the Venezuelan and the United States governments, and the future of resource sovereignty in the Americas.

PUNISHMENT & RESISTANCE

Along the Criminilization to Deportation Pipeline

With Sarah Tosh, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Sociology,
Anthropology, and Criminal Justice,
Rutgers University – Camden

On Wednesday, April 15, the LALCC welcomed Dr. Sarah Tosh, Assistant Professor of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice at Rutgers University–Camden. In her presentation, titled "Punishment & Resistance: Along the Criminalization to Deportation Pipeline," Dr. Tosh explored the "crimmigration" nexus, drawing on nearly a decade of research into criminal conviction based deportation in the New York City area. Her presentation shed light on the systems that funnel immigrants from criminalization to deportation, their profound impact on marginalized communities, and the various forms of resistance that emerge in response.



SUGAR ISLAND

Film Screening

With Director
Johanné Gómez Terrero

On Monday, April 20, the LALCC partnered with the Department of World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures to host a free screening of the 2024 film Sugar Island.

The powerful coming of age story follows Makenya, a Dominican-Haitian teen navigating adulthood, community struggles, and ancestral resistance in the Dominican Republic.

Following the screening, attendees participated in an insightful Q&A session with the film's director, Johanné Gómez Terrero, which was moderated by Dr. Eilyn Lombard Cabrera and translated by Dr. Jessica Rutherford of the World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures Department.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SPRING 2026 GRADUATES!

- **ABEL ANTONY** (NURSING)
- **LINDSY FIGUEROA** (PSYCHOLOGY & CRIMINOLOGY)
- **MICHELLE VEGA CHINEA** (GRAPHIC DESIGN & SPANISH)



LALCC Student Interns Abel, Lindsay, and Michelle all graduated from Central with GPAs above 3.0. Michelle has interned with the LALCC since 2023, while Lindsay and Abel joined the staff in 2024.

We are extremely grateful to have had them work and train with us, and we wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors!

REMEMBERING OUR FRIEND: DR. GILBERTO CÁRDENAS

The LALCC joins the academic and artistic communities in mourning the loss of Dr. Gilberto Cárdenas, who passed away peacefully at his home in Austin, Texas, on July 26, 2026, at the age of 79.

Dr. Cárdenas was a visionary scholar and leader whose contributions helped shape the field of Latino Studies across the nation. As Executive Director of the Inter-University Program for Latino Research (IUPLR) from 1995 to 2013, he played a foundational role in expanding Latino scholarship, championing artists, and opening doors for generations of students and academics.

Beyond his national leadership, Dr. Cárdenas and his wife, Dolores Carrillo García, left a lasting impact on our campus.

Through their incredible generosity, the Cárdenas-García collection brought over 17 major Latino artworks to the LALCC—expanding our center into visual



arts and creating hands-on learning opportunities in art stewardship and curation for our student interns.

We extend our deepest condolences to his beloved wife, Dolores Garcia and the entire Cárdenas family. Dr. Cárdenas's vision, humility, and dedication to Latino art and scholarship will remain an enduring part of the LALCC.



LOOKING FORWARD TO FALL 2026

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PERSPECTIVAS

An Exhibit in Honor of Dr. Gilberto Cárdenas



This fall, the LALCC is excited to present one of its signature events of the upcoming semester: *Perspectivas: In Honor of Dr. Gilberto Cárdenas*, an art exhibit running from September 3 through October 2. On display in the Chen Art Gallery in Maloney Hall (open Mondays 12–4 p.m. and Tuesdays–Friday 11 a.m.–4 p.m.), the exhibition is dedicated to honoring the passion and generosity of Dr. Cárdenas and Mrs. Dolores Garcia. Visitors will have the unique opportunity to view a rich collection of Latino art exploring diverse political and cultural themes. The showcase will feature 17 prints from the Cárdenas–Garcia donation, including the standout 2020 piece "Chosen Family," alongside five photographic prints donated by Roj Rodriguez. Additionally, the gallery will display a special loaned piece titled "¿Cómo se dice boricua en inglés?" courtesy of Dr. Anthony De Jesus and Dr. Madeline Perez, making this an unmissable celebration of cultural heritage and artistic expression on campus. This event is made possible with support from CTHumanities.

PUERTO RICAN DAY PARADE

Sunday, Sept. 13
Hartford, CT



Show your Blue Devil pride on Sunday, September 13, as CCSU marches in the annual Greater Hartford Puerto Rican Day Parade!

All Central students, alumni, faculty, staff, and family and friends are warmly invited to join us in celebrating culture and community. The parade officially kicks off at 11:00 AM at 990 Park Street in Hartford and wraps up at Bushnell Park.

Register at <https://givepul.se/b7klh4> by September 8 or before spots fill up!

PERSPECTIVAS GALLERY TALK

Wednesday, Sept. 16
4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

An Open Lecture on Campus

**With Claudia Zapata, Ph.D.
Associate Curator of Latino Art
Blanton Museum of Art**

As a highlight of our fall art exhibition, the LALCC is honored to welcome Dr. Claudia Zapata (they/them) for an open campus lecture on Wednesday, September 16, from 4:00 to 6:00 PM.

Dr. Zapata, a leading specialist in Latine and Chicanx art and the Associate Curator of Latino Art at the Blanton Museum of Art, will lead an engaging discussion on the rich history and evolving landscape of Latinx art. In addition to the lecture, attendees can see Dr. Zapata's own artistic talent on display, as one of their art pieces will be featured right here on campus as part of our September 3–October 2 *Perspectivas* Art Exhibit.



This event is made possible with support from CTHumanities.

**Don't miss this incredible opportunity to hear from a premier
voice in contemporary Latinx art and curation!**

SALSA FEST & STUDY ABROAD FAIR

Tuesday, Sept. 22
12:00 PM – 3:00 PM
Student Center Circle

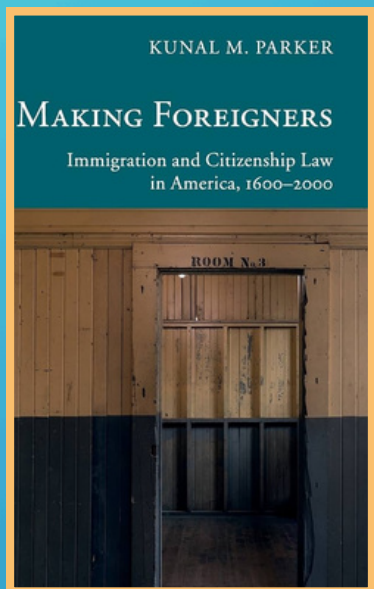


Mark your calendars for Salsa Fest and the Study Abroad Fair on Tuesday, September 22, from 12:00 to 3:00 PM! The LALCC is teaming up with the Central's Study Abroad Office and the Mosaic Center for a vibrant campus celebration at the Student Center Circle (Rain Location: Alumni Hall).

Come out and experience live salsa music by the Hartt Salsa All Stars, hit the dance floor with a live salsa lesson led by Xiomara Colon, and browse a fantastic fair featuring local Latina/o/x crafters, small business owners, and community resources. Local Latin food trucks will also be on-site, making this the perfect afternoon to explore global opportunities, support local vendors, and celebrate culture on campus!

LATINOS & CITIZENSHIP IN THE U.S. SYMPOSIUM

Friday, Dec. 5
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Hilltop Cafe



Join us on Friday, December 5, from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the Hilltop Cafe for a day long symposium!

The event will feature keynote speaker Dr. Kunal Parker, Professor of Law at the University of Miami, whose acclaimed book *Making Foreigners: Immigration and Citizenship Law in America, 1600–2000* explores the legal history of birthright citizenship and how law has historically shaped concepts of foreignness in the United States.

This event is free and open to the public. Registration details and a Call for Papers for prospective presenters will be released soon.

This event is made possible with support from CTHumanities.

MENTORING TALKING WISDOM MONDAYS TUESDAYS WEDNESDAYS FALL 2026 SCHEDULE

Mentoring Mondays

09/14 (3-4 PM)

Kelly Perrotti

Associate Director,
Financial Literacy Office

10/05 (3-4 PM)

Valerie Wilson

Assistant Director,
Office of Career &
Professional Development

10/19 (3-4 PM)

Surbhi Patel

Director,
Ted Czepiga, SASI Program
Coordinator
Office of Accessibility
Services

10/26 (3-4 PM)

Dr. Zongxiang Mei

International Education
Coordinator, ARO
Global Engagement at
Central

11/09 (3-4 PM)

Dr. Amanda Fields

Director, The Writing
Center

Talking Tuesdays

09/08 (12-1 PM)

Lindaluz Carrillo Airis

Award-winning pop artist,
graphic designer

09/15 (12-1 PM)

Evelyn Ruiz

CEO, Hasta Luego Friend™
Mobile Cafe

10/06 (12-1 PM)

Dr. Noel Casiano

Lecturer, Counselor
Education & Family Therapy

11/17 (12-1 PM)

Lynette Colón

Director, Campus Ministry &
Community Service
University of Saint Joseph

Wisdom Wednesdays

10/08 (3-4 PM)

Dr. Julia A. Kushigian

Professor of Hispanic
Studies, Social Justice and
Sustainability Pathway
Coordinator, Connecticut
College

"Intersection of Culture:
The Representation of
Peripheries in
Latin America"

10/28 (3-4 PM)

Dr. Liza W. Rozas

Professor, Director of the
Puerto Rican
and Latino Studies Project,
UConn
"Coloniality, Bias, and Well-
Being: Deconstructing
Social & Health Systems"

ALL MM, TT, & WW EVENTS TAKE PLACE AT ELIHU BURRITT LIBRARY, 4TH FLOOR, SUITE 408

*Thank you for reading this issue of
the newsletter!*

We look forward to seeing you this fall!

In the meantime, stay tuned for
information about upcoming events on
Instagram, Facebook, and our
website at

www.ccsu.edu/lalcc

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EARY BANUSHI

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