Nuestra Tierra, Nuestro Hogar: Latinos in Virginia

A Hispanic Heritage Month Panel Discussion

The Library of Virginia's current exhibition, *The Land We Live In, The Land We Left: Virginia's People*, explores the varied stories of the wave of immigrants who willingly moved to Virginia—from the arrival at Jamestown to the recent surges in the Valley and Northern Virginia—and examines their contributions to the state's increasingly diverse composition. In observation of Hispanic Heritage Month, the Library of Virginia will host a panel discussion on the experiences of recent Hispanic immigrants to the state and the opportunities and challenges they face.

This program is presented in partnership with the University of Richmond's Bonner Center for Civic Engagement at UR Downtown, its Latino/Hispanic Heritage Month Planning Committee, and its Office of Multicultural Affairs, as well as the Virginia Latino Higher Education Network.

Nuestra Tierra, Nuestro Hogar: Latinos in Virginia
Thursday, September 30
6:00–7:30 PM
Library of Virginia, Lecture Hall
Free parking in the Library of Virginia garage
The event will be followed by a free reception, with music provided by the University of Richmond's Salsa Meets Jazz student music group with professor Mike Davidson.

Participants

Bobbie Barajas, Music Director, WCVE Public Radio (panel moderator)
Barajas, a native Texan, is a public radio veteran. Since she began working for WCVE in 2000, Barajas has hosted a daily classical music program and produced broadcasts with the Richmond Symphony and other special live events. She recently produced the station's first CD, *The WCVE Danny Boy Project*, released in March 2010, and was among the guest conductors at the Richmond Symphony's May 2010 "Celebrity Maestro" fundraiser. She has also served on the boards of the Chopin Society of Texas and the HARPS Foundation in Richmond, Virginia.

H. B. Cavalcanti, Ph.D., Professor of Sociology at James Madison University
Cavalcanti has a law degree from the Universidade Católica de Pernambuco and a master's degree in social work from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He received both his master's degree and Ph.D. in sociology from Vanderbilt University. He is coauthor, along with Debra Schleef, of *Latinos in Dixie: Class and Assimilation in Richmond, Virginia*. His fourth book, *Almost Home: An Immigrant's Struggles with Faith, Culture and Migration*, is currently under review.

Rafael Lopez, President of Rafael Lopez and Associates
Born in Cochabamba, Bolivia, and grew up in both Bolivia and the United States. He and his family immigrated to Arlington, Virginia, in search of a better life when he was nine years old. In 2002, Lopez was appointed zoning administrator for the Town of Dumfries, and in 2004 he was elected to the Dumfries Town Council and served a four-year term (2004–2008). In 2009, after securing the Republican Party nomination, Lopez ran for Virginia State Delegate. He is the founder and president of Rafael Lopez and Associates, a local government–relations firm.

Debra J. Schleef, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Sociology, University of Mary Washington
Schleef received her Ph.D. from Northwestern University. Her research interests involve class, race, and gender perspectives on occupational socialization and professional education. She is coauthor, along with H. B. Cavalcanti, of *Latinos in Dixie: Class and Assimilation in Richmond, Virginia*.

Mirta Martin, Ph.D., Vice President of the Virginia Latino Higher Education Network and Dean of the Reginald F. Lewis School of Business and Professor of Management, Virginia State University
Born in Havana, Cuba, and an immigrant to the United States, Martin holds baccalaureate degrees in psychology and political science from Duke University, a master of business administration degree from the University of Richmond, and a doctorate with an emphasis on strategic management and leadership from Virginia Commonwealth University. She was appointed by Governor Bob McDonnell to the Governor's Commission on Higher Education, Reform, Innovation, and Investment, and by Governor Kaine to serve on the Virginia Council on the Status of Women. Additionally, she serves as chair of the Hispanic Youth Symposium at Virginia State University, and as vice president of the Virginia Latino Higher Education Network (VALHEN). Martin is the Virginia State University's and the commonwealth's first Latina dean.

Debra Rodman, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Women's Studies at Randolph-Macon College
Rodman received her Ph.D. in cultural anthropology from the University of Florida and has spent the past decade studying Guatemalan transnational migration, looking at ethnic and gender relations between indigenous and Latino migrants from Eastern Guatemala. She has published on Guatemalan migration, gendered violence, and genocide. Her current research in Virginia concentrates on the recent arrival of indigenous migrants from Guatemala and Mexico, immigrant integration, and language and literacy issues

Sponsored By

University of Richmond

VALHEN Virginia Latino Higher Education Network

Virginia Credit Union

This event is a part of the 2010-2011 VALHEN Lecture Series throughout the commonwealth of Virginia. The series is sponsored by the Virginia Credit Union. For additional information, contact info@valhen.org.