

September 01, 2006

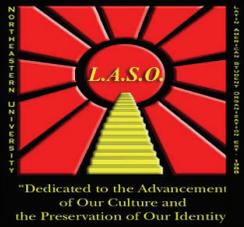
LASO newsletter: volume 2, issue 1: September 2006

Latin American Student Organization, Northeastern University

Recommended Citation

Latin American Student Organization, Northeastern University, "LASO newsletter: volume 2, issue 1: September 2006" (2006). *Latin American Student Organization Newsletters*. Paper 1. <http://hdl.handle.net/2047/d20000484>

This work is available open access, hosted by Northeastern University.



LASO IS BACK!

Are you ready?

Northeastern University
Latin American Student
Organization

Volume 2, Issue 1
September 1, 2006

Letter from the Editor

Hello all! My name is Jessica Valentin and it is with great pleasure that I have been elected to the position of Vice President of External Affairs of the Latin American Student Organization (LASO). Founded in 1988, LASO's mission has been to be "dedicated to the advancement of our culture and the preservation of our identity." Our success is due in part to our very dedicated members who have helped put on countless events ranging from educational, cultural, political, social, and professional. Our organization's efforts were recognized earlier this year when we received Northeastern University's Organization of the Year Award for the 2005-2006 school year at the Student Activities Award Ceremony.

For those who are receiving this for the first time, I would like to welcome you to the second volume of LASO's newsletter. Although the academic year has not yet begun, LASO has remained in full force to plan for the upcoming year and to retain the sense of *familia*. 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 opportunity, such as employment, scholarships, 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_lasovepa@yahoo.com. Thank you and enjoy!

Inside this issue:

Cover Page:	1
Letter from the Editor	
E-Team, no longer E-Board	2
LASO Leaders	3
Society of Latino Alumni (SOLA)	3
Hispanic Heritage Month (HHM)	4
Calendar of Events	5
Support LASO / Contact information	6

Summer 2006: LASO Keeps on Rolling

Many organizations take the summer off to have a break away from it all. However, many LASO members are different in this respect because they have not let the summer break stop them from working on upcoming events. These members have been meeting all summer to create the events that will be taking place during this fall's Hispanic Heritage Month. The Budget Review Committee revised its regulations and created new deadlines for submitting proposals for program funding. July 24th marked the new deadline for any events taking place during the first couple months of school. Therefore, these outstanding students have had numerous meetings each week to plan events. The E-Team has also been meeting to plan the year and make it another successful one.



E-Team, no longer E-Board 2006-2007

Soon after the new team was elected, we started planning for the year to come. An E-Team retreat was held on Sunday, April 30th where both new and previous members spent a whole day training for what is going to be a very eventful school year. LASO has been fostering the developing of leaders and the maintaining of a “team” mentality. Therefore, the elected members are no longer referred to as the LASO Executive Board, but now as the Executive Team. These elected members lead a group of talented Latinos and non-Latinos alike in becoming active members in the Northeastern and Boston communities. LASO encourages members early on to take on initiatives that follow our mission of being “dedicated to the advancement of our culture and the preservation of our identity.”

I would like to introduce this year’s E-Team starting with the Secretary Cali of Quincy. A sophomore Criminal Justice major of Vietnamese and Puerto Rican descent, she is a great example of how our members start early on in becoming active members. Cali was awarded the La Comunidad Latina en Acción (LaCLA) full-tuition scholarship after her first year. Through this scholarship, Cali will do plenty of community service as it is one of the scholarship requirements.

Vinny of Lawrence is a junior Accounting and Finance double major of Dominican descent. His energy and enthusiasm brings a lot to the table when it comes to getting things done as Treasurer. His recent co-op was as an Audit and Tax Associate at PriceWaterhouseCoopers. Vinny’s interests and hobbies include watching movies, problem-solving, socializing, and learning more about his history and identity. Vinny receives the renewable Stephen Phillips Memorial Scholarship based on academic performance and community service.

Roberto of Chelsea is a junior Computer Engineering major of Dominican descent. As the Executive Vice President, he has been fostering connections between LASO and other entities on campus, and developing useful documents for leadership development. In addition, he oversees various committees for LASO’s events. His interests include reading, entrepreneurship, community service and spending quality time with his daughter Alexa. In addition, Rob is a LaCLA scholar and is interning at EMC Corporation.

Luisa, the president, is from Lawrence and is also a LaCLA scholar. Dominican in descent, she is a Political Science and International Affairs double major and is entering her last year at Northeastern. Luisa spent a semester abroad in Egypt last fall and just recently returned from a summer at Washington, D.C. at the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI) where she interned in the office of Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren from California. During her time there, she did a community service project with CHCI. Luisa also attended hearings with Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren, answered constituent concerns, conducted research on immigration legislation and wrote memos. Her hobbies include traveling, reading and dancing.

I am Jessica of Lawrence, a junior Biology major of Puerto Rican descent. I spent the month of May volunteering and taking courses in Mexico as part of Northeastern’s International Human Service Program. I am currently working at Children’s Hospital in Boston as a Research Assistant in the Neurosurgery department. As VP of External Affairs, I am a part of the Latino Professional Network, am coordinating with community organizations for high school mentorship as well as building relationships with other Latino student organizations in Boston.

The E-Team looks forward to a year of developing and maintaining strong relationships within and outside of the Northeastern community. We welcome you all to join our *familia!* Through your love and support, we will make this year a successful and memorable one.



E-Team at Senior Banquet on April 22, 2006

From Left: Roberto M. Cabral, Jessica Valentin., Luisa Peña, Cali Nguyen, Vinny J. Tejada

LASO encourages members early on to take on initiatives that follow our mission of being “dedicated to the advancement of our culture and the preservation of our identity.”

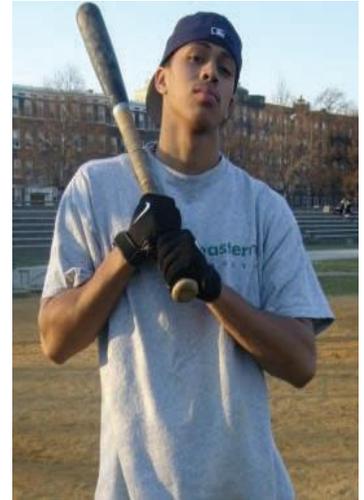


Outstanding LASO Leaders

A LASO leader is a member of our organization who goes beyond attending our weekly meetings and takes the initiative to lead events and are always there to support a cause. Every month, two LASO Leaders will be recognized for their good efforts, hard work, and dedication which is very much appreciated. This month we would like to personally thank and highlight two particular members who have stood out. They are Calvin Perez (above) and Jose de la Rosa (below).

Calvin Perez was a freshman when he joined us last year, but his dedication to LASO was like no other. Calvin has taken part in many of the previous year's committees and events and has contributed so much since he joined our organization a year ago. Even though he was not on campus for the summer, Calvin took time off his only summer break from Northeastern to plan monthly baseball games and barbeques at Franklin Park to create a way for members to stay connected this summer.

Jose de la Rosa has been the "King" of Hispanic Heritage Month (HHM) as he has been leading a committee all summer with weekly meetings and overseeing the sub-committees for all NINE events. Jose has done an amazing job, especially since he's led the majority of the meetings through conference calls from New York where his co-op was. The summer was busy but now the fall will be busier as Jose takes on the role as a Resident Assistant. His relationship with residents on campus will allow LASO events to be publicized to another level and bring a more diverse audience.



Society of Latino Alumni (SOLA)

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



SOLA is made up of Latino Alumni of Northeastern University, many of which had been a part of LASO in their college years. This group of professionals is a great resource for students in terms of mentorship of career paths. They also aid in job seeking and connecting to our roots as the Latin American Student Organization. They host an annual *Caminos* event on campus where a panel of Latino Alumni come in to dialogue with current students regarding career paths. They also show their support at the Annual Senior Banquet for Latinos at NU. LASO looks forward to continuing the strong relationship with its alumni this upcoming year.

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

-Mission Statement

*Upcoming Event:
Mocktail @ Latino Student Cultural Center
Thursday, September 21st
Time: TBA*



Hispanic Heritage Month /Mes de la Herencia

A little history

Hispanic Heritage Month is a very important time for LASO. It is a time when we celebrate our culture and invite the University to partake in our series of events. Many may not understand the history of Hispanic Heritage Month and why we celebrate it. The following is a brief history of the origin of the September to October dates.

In 1968, Congress authorized President Lyndon B. Johnson to proclaim a week in September as National Hispanic Heritage Week. The observance was expanded in 1988 to a month long celebration (Sept. 15 - Oct. 15). During this month, the United States celebrates the culture and traditions of U.S. residents who trace their roots to Spain, Mexico and the Spanish-speaking nations of Central America, South America and the Caribbean. Sept. 15th was chosen as the starting point for the celebration because it is the anniversary of independence of five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on Sept. 16 and Sept. 18, respectively.

- U.S. Census Bureau

As mentioned earlier, LASO has been arduously working all summer to ensure that a series of events go on during the September 15 through October 15 celebrations. In order to showcase Latinos in all aspects of life, a committee of LASO leaders broke up into smaller committees and focused on individual areas. To be more specific, the different events will be professional, cultural, educational, political, and social.

We have invited guests such as [Esmeralda Santiago](#), author of *When I Was Puerto Rican*, to come speak on campus on her life as a Latina writer and her experience growing up in the US after spending her first 13 years of life in Puerto Rico. We look forward to her visit and welcome anyone who is interested in attending.

[Jaime Escalante](#), inductee of the National Teachers Hall of Fame, will also be a guest. He is known for his 1982 struggle which was made into film titled *Stand and Deliver* when his "barrio" students in California tested so high in Advance Placement test for math that they were suspected of cheating by the Education Testing Service. He believes in helping students find their inner desires to succeed in life. LASO looks forward to hearing him speak.

A couple of the other events will be cultural and consist of food and dance. One particular event will showcase Inca Son, an indigenous group, teaching a workshop on the traditional music and dance of the Andes Mountains of Peru. They will be dressed in authentic and colorful Inca attire.

We welcome you to any or all of the events that have been planned for the celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. Please forward any questions you may have (refer to page 6).



"Today, I continue to enjoy successes which I can attribute to one powerful lesson I learned from Mr. Escalante: 'You can do anything you want to, its easy, the hardest part is that you have to believe you can do it, the rest is a piece of cake.'" – Steve Robles, former student, vice president, La Curacao



September 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
					Variety Show	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
				Kickoff Mtg 6pm 318-320 CSC.	Dance Fusion Latin Night	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
				La Ribbean Food Festival Esmeralda Santiago		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
				Inca Son Workshop		

October 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	National Council of La Raza - National				Beatless	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
		Jaime Escalante				Community Service Pachanga Night
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
					Comedian TBA	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				
		Halloween Community Event TBA				



**Northeastern University
Latin American Student Organization**

Send mail to:
Jessica Valentin, LASO
Latino/a Student Cultural Center
104 Forsyth Street
Boston, MA 02115

Phone: 978.590.2956
Fax: 617.373.7888
E-mail:
Jessica_lasovpea@yahoo.com

Donations to the Latin American Student 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_lasovpea@yahoo.com.

Visit us online @
www.laso.neu.edu

Our weekly meetings are every Thursday at 6pm.

Locations: [View Fall 2006 Calendar](#)

President

Luisa Pena
pena.l@neu.edu

Executive Vice President

Roberto M. Cabral
cabral.ro@neu.edu

Vice President of External Affairs

Jessica Valentin
jessica_lasovpea@yahoo.edu

Treasurer

Vinny J. Tejada
tejada.v@neu.edu

Secretary

Cali Nguyen
nguyen.c@neu.edu