

CELEBRATING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH 2021

NOTABLE ACTIVISTS OF THE LAST CENTURY

By Edwin Roman, Department of Transfer Services

What is activism? Activism involves actions to effect positive social, political, economic, or environmental change. It is about raising an inner voice in support of your views and can take the form of volunteer work, a protest, or problem solving. Women have always been at the center of activism and this year for Women's History Month, *Boletín* celebrates this fact by highlighting three extraordinary women.

Djali Brown-Cepeda [21st Century]

While gentrification increases property values in areas that have suffered from persistent disinvestment, it also results in rising rents and a reduction in the supply of affordable housing. Existing residents, who are often Black or Latino, are displaced. Extreme and unnecessary cultural displacement is a prevailing characteristic of gentrification.

Nuevayorkinos (www.nuevayorkinos.com/) is a digital archive established in 2019 dedicated to documenting and preserving New York City Latinx culture and history through family photographs and stories. The archive notes that, "...Black and Brown peoples find ourselves increasingly affected by rampant gentrification, Nuevayorkinos reminds the city of its extensive Latinx history, one that cannot be erased by rising rent or forced displacement."

The archive was founded by Djali Brown-Cepeda, a second-generation Dominican-American film producer from Inwood, who is committed to organizing and mobilizing communities of color. In September 2020, Brown-Cepeda and her partner organized a Back-to-School Drive, raising funds to provide 500 backpacks filled with school supplies for children in Bushwick. She also started Djali's Book Club, which is dedicated to sharing books on BIPOC liberation, race, politics, and social justice. Brown-Cepeda was also a Voto Latino Electoral Partner in the 2020 presidential election cycle.

Dolores Huerta [Mid 20th Century]

Dolores Huerta, one of the most influential labor activists of the 20th century, is the co-founder of the United Farm Workers

Association, and a leader of the Chicano civil rights movement.

Born on April 10, 1930 in New Mexico, Huerta was the second child of Alicia and Juan Fernandez, a farm worker who became a state legislator. When her parents divorced, her mother moved the family to Stockton, California. Here, her mother's activism was a great influence. Discrimination also shaped Huerta: a teacher, once accused her of cheating because her papers were too well-written. Huerta received an associate degree in teaching from the University of the Pacific's Delta College and briefly taught in the 1950s, but seeing so many hungry farm children in her classroom motivated her to do more to help them by organizing farm workers.



Huerta, in 1955, co-founded the Stockton chapter of the Community Service Organization (CSO), which notably led voter registration drives and fought for economic improvements. Through CSO, Huerta met fellow activist César Chávez. In 1962, Huerta and Chávez founded the National Farm Workers Association (NFWA), the predecessor of the United Farm Workers' Union (UFW), which formed three years later. Huerta organized workers, negotiated contracts, and advocated for safer working conditions that included the elimination of harmful pesticides. She also fought for unemployment and healthcare benefits for agricultural workers. Huerta served as UFW vice president until 1999.

Huerta, the recipient of many honors, received the Eleanor Roosevelt Human Rights Award in 1998 and the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2012.

Isabel González [Early 20th Century]

The seizure of Puerto Rico by the United States after the Spanish-American War (April 21, 1898 - August 13, 1898) raised an assortment of questions regarding status, many of which are still being explored today. The most notable was whether Puerto Rico would be a state, and its residents U.S. citizens. The Treaty of Paris of 1898 took away the Spanish citizenship of Puerto Ricans but did not guarantee U.S. cit-

CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE

izenship. Instead, the Treaty simply noted that the political status and civil rights of Puerto Ricans be determined by Congress.

Before 1898, the U.S. had organized new acquisitions into autonomous territories (e.g., The Louisiana Purchase as a preface to statehood and extending some constitutional rights as well as U.S. citizenship to free residents which, of course, did not include Native Americans. This process changed after 1898; Congress established a centralized government in Puerto Rico, did not extend the Constitution, and failed to recognize Puerto Ricans as U.S. citizens.

Significant questions regarding the U.S. citizenship of Puerto Ricans were raised in the landmark Supreme Court case *Gonzales v. Williams*. The case involved Isabel González, who at the time she left Puerto Rico for New York City, was pregnant and planned to reunite with her fiancée. González didn't think any problems would arise since it was common for Puerto Ricans to travel freely to the United States. However, it was while she was traveling that the Department of Treasury issued new immigration protocols.

Upon her arrival in New York City, González was detained and transferred to Ellis Island where the newly appointed immigrant commissioner, William Williams established policies in which individuals traveling with less than ten dollars could be investigated further. While González did have more than ten dollars, Williams labeled her as a public burden because she was traveling alone and pregnant and was ultimately deemed as immoral and prevented from entering the country.

When González's case went before the Supreme Court, her lawyers chose not to focus on the reasons she was not admitted, but instead argued that Puerto Ricans were indeed citizens because of U.S. rule. The Supreme Court determined that under immigration laws, González was not an alien and could not be denied entry into New York City, but declined to pronounce that she was a U.S. citizen.

When González was out on bond, she married her fiancé in secret and became a citizen through marriage because the new immigration rules did not apply to him. She could have ended her case, but instead she still pressed on because she saw how important it was. Isabel González, after winning her case in the Supreme Court, continued her activism and was even published several times in *The New York Times* denouncing The Supreme Court's decision.

FACULTY & STAFF

CONFERENCES

Empowering Tutors to Create Effective Online Learning Environments.

College Discovery and SEEK have enhanced the lives of thousands of CUNY students over the decades; one critical element to their success has been dedicated tutoring. **Leidy Pichardo (College Discovery)** and Jessica C. Rivera (SEEK, Medgar Evers) collaborated in a virtual training "to empower tutors in creating and sustaining effective online learning environments" in Fall 2020 and shared their knowledge and experience with the BCC audience. "Tutoring is productive," said a College Discovery student, "because I am learning more, and I am getting work done; the tutor shares her screen and gives me feedback I need to better understand the assignment."



Leidy Pichardo

Raquel Alicia Otheguy. (History) "Central Role of Black Cuban Womn in Developing Cuba's National Education System in the 19th Century." *Cuban Slavery and the Atlantic World Conference*. Yale University Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition, November 7, 2020. (1)

Nelson Santana. (Library) "The COVID-19 Dominican Oral History Project." DSA2020 Virtually@Hostos: IX Biennial Dominican Studies Association Conference. *Crisis of Truth, State of Emergency, and Social Responses: The Urgency of Dominican and Ethnic Studies in the Present Hour*. December 4, 2020. Hostos Community College, Bronx, NY. Panelist.

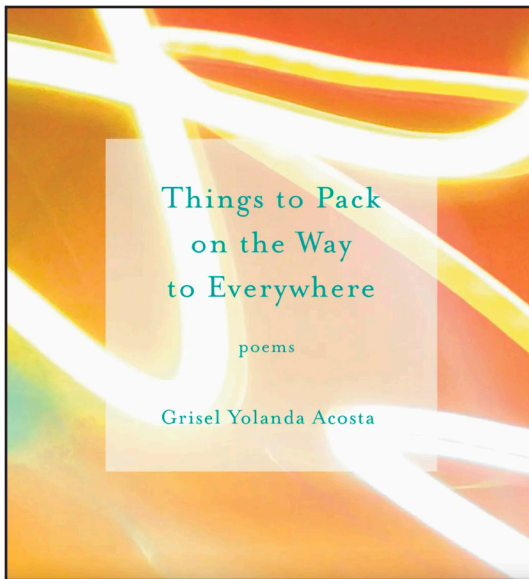
PUBLICATIONS

Raquel Alicia Otheguy. (History) "'Es de suponer que los maestros sean de la misma clase': What a Nineteenth-Century Teaching Application Reveals about Race, Power, and Education in Colonial Cuba." University of Pittsburg Press: *Cuban Studies* (2020) 49, 174-192. "

VISIT THE ASSOCIATION WEBSITE FOR MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION, LINKS, AND ARCHIVED ISSUES OF *BOLETÍN*.

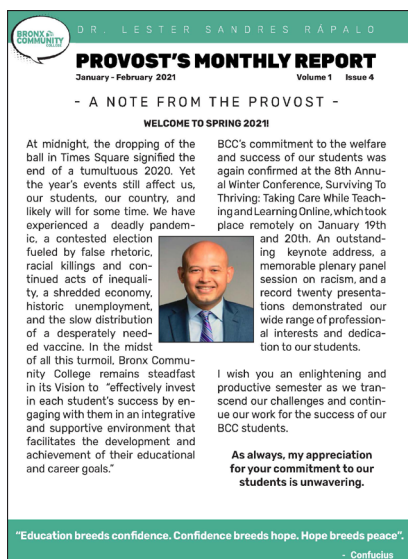
<http://www.bcc.cuny.edu/campus-life/student-life/campus-diversity/association-of-latino-faculty-and-staff/>

ACHIEVEMENTS [LOGROS]



Things to Pack on the Way to Everywhere, Dr. Grisel Y. Acosta's forthcoming book, is a blueprint for Afro-Latinx adventurers who want to keep their sanity in a world that does not value the history or contributions of Black/Latinx women. Dr. Acosta shares moments of despair, anger, elation, joy, and love, as she pieces together her history and ancestry, while finding catharsis through Black punk revolutionaries like Poly Styrene and the Chicago House movement. Follow her journey toward empowerment while fighting sexism and neoliberalism in the medical industry, academia, and in a world-wide pandemic. Watch as she decides that we all have time for self-care and dance, even as the world descends into chaos.

Pre-order your copy here: <https://bit.ly/39f-G46H>



Dr. Barbara Flores-Caballero. (Education & Academic Literacy)

Flores-Caballero, B. (2020). Higher Education: Factors and Strategies for Student Retention. *HETS Online Journal*. Volume X, Spring Issue. <https://hets.org/ejournal/2020/05/12/higher-education-factors-and-strategies-for-student-retention/>

September 1, 2020. Interview in Acceso Total Telemundo 47 NY. Cómo ayudar a tus hijos a prepararse para el regreso a clases.

<https://www.telemundo47.com/local/como-ayudar-a-tus-hijos-a-prepararse-para-el-regreso-a-clases-presenciales/2091504/>

September 28, 2020. Artículo Podcast en <https://blog.libsyn.com/2020/09/28/rockin-libsyn-podcasts-transforming-knowledge/>

October 10, 2020. Winner of the 2020 Latin Podcast Award *Transforming Knowledge*. Education Category.

October 12, 2020. Interview in El Jukeo La Mega 97.9 New York. Cómo hablar con tus hijos como Padres solteros sobre la sexualidad con la Dra. Barbara Flores.

Parte 1:

<https://www.lamusica.com/podcasts/el-jukeo-podcast/episodes/5f85251f56eb-3cd8bf27d12e>

Parte 2:

<https://www.lamusica.com/podcasts/el-jukeo-podcast/episodes/5f8525b756eb-3cd8bf27d130>

Parte 3:

<https://www.lamusica.com/podcasts/el-jukeo-podcast/episodes/5f8525ff56eb3cd8bf27d132>

October 16, 2020 Emotional Intelligence in a Remote Era- Speaker Latino Association.

November 16, 2020. Interview in El Jukeo La Mega 97.9 New York. "Como saber si tus hijos están usando drogas con la Doctora Barbara Flores.

Parte 1:

<https://www.lamusica.com/en/podcasts/el-jukeo-podcast/episodes/5f-b3257e44eeae35b8fddcec>

Parte 2:

<https://www.lamusica.com/podcasts/el-jukeo-podcast/episodes/5f-b3256244eeae35b8fddcea>



Congratulations to **Dr. Lester Rápalo** for his new publication, *Provost's Monthly Newsletter*. Launched in October 2020, it highlights Dr. Rápalo's efforts on and off campus as well as those of faculty and staff in Academic Affairs and Student Success.

Dr. Richard LaManna serves as Editor-in-Chief while our very own **Edwin Roman** serves as Designer and Co-Editor. **Katherine Acevedo-Coppa** serves as Assistant Editor for Content and Bibi Yusuf-Moore handles content management.

You may find all the issues here: <https://bit.ly/2NPd6TI>.

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NEWS [NOTICIAS]

HELP A STUDENT, RAISE BCC

The Association of Latino Faculty and Staff, in January 2021, raised money to help students pay bursar balances on their bills so that they may continue their studies for the Spring 2021 semester. This effort by The Association was to help address and boost persistence.

The effort raised \$1,450.00.




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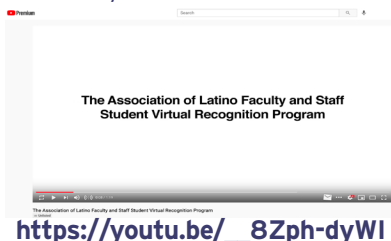
To donate please visit <https://cutt.ly/XjMPuF6>
Then click on "online."
Then click on "make a gift."
In the Designation box, select "Association of Latino Faculty & Staff Dues" from the drop-down menu.

Any amount will do.



VIRTUAL RECOGNITION FOR STUDENTS

On Friday, December 17, 2020 The Association held a Virtual Recognition Ceremony for students. Two videos were produced: one was titled "Meet The 2020 Recipients of the Association of Latino Faculty and Staff Student Scholarship" and the other "The Association of Latino Faculty and Staff Student Virtual Recognition Program" Both are available on YouTube.



SAVE THE DATE!

VIRTUAL RECOGNITION CEREMONY Friday, May 14, 3:00-5:00 P.M.

SUMMER 2021 SUBMISSIONS

Please send your submissions for the Summer 2021 issue to Edwin Roman (edwin.roman@bcc.cuny.edu) by **May 28, 2021**. The summer issue of *Boletín* is devoted exclusively to celebrating faculty and staff accomplishments. When submitting publications and conference presentations, please use the MLA format. Feel free to include photographs of book covers as well as headshots and other related pictures.

