

PROVIDENCE COLLEGE

IDEI in Our Community.

SEPTEMBER 2022 - ISSUE NO. 10

Welcome Back to Friartown!

We are so excited to welcome new and returning students, faculty, and staff to campus.

The Institutional Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion team had a productive summer. In June, we hosted PC's inaugural Juneteenth Celebration with over 200 attendees. Guests enjoyed food from local restaurants, caught up with friends, and learned about the history of Juneteenth, a holiday celebrated annually on June 19 to commemorate the emancipation of enslaved people. Juneteenth is now observed by many institutions nationally and will be observed by Providence College beginning June 19, 2023.

In July, we welcomed Dr. Comfort Ateh to her new role in the Provost's Office as the Associate Provost for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). In this role, Dr. Ateh will work closely and collaborate with the Office of Institutional Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (IDEI), Mission and Ministry, the school deans, and other campus leaders on behalf of the Provost to ensure that diversity, equity, and inclusion are integrated across all academic planning and Academic Affairs initiatives.

The Center @ Moore Hall provided location, access, and events to community partners, including Upward We Learn, a college preparatory organization. Moore Hall also supported campus programs such as Transitions and Friar Foundations throughout the summer, collaborating with campus partners to support first-year students.

August began with a team photoshoot around our campus and our annual team retreat. Our team also had the opportunity to meet the new faculty members during their New Faculty Orientation and the Resident Assistants during their training session, and many other campus groups and key constituencies.

We are excited about what this semester will bring!

We wish you all the success in this academic year!

- THE IDEI TEAM



A Warm Welcome to Perla Castillo Calderon!

IDEI NEW ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

**We are honored and excited to welcome
Perla Castillo Calderon to the IDEI team!**



Perla joined the PC community in 2016, as an MLK Scholarship recipient and member of the Multicultural Student Success Program. Throughout her undergraduate studies, she served as a Coordinator for the First-Generation Peer Mentoring Program (PMP), a Resident Assistant, a Friar Foundations Program mentor, and a Research Fellow for the Dialogue, Inclusion, and Democracy (DID) Lab. During Perla's graduate tenure, she provided support as the Graduate Assistant for IDEI and the Graduate Intern at the Center for Global Education. Perla is a proud double Friar— having earned a B.A. in Public and Community Service Studies in 2020 and an M.Ed. in Higher Education in 2022 from Providence College.

As the inaugural Assistant Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) for Student Success, Perla is excited to create opportunities and transformative educational experiences, which will include engaging in active citizenship to advance DEI and Student Success at Providence College. In her new role, Perla will foster and lead student learning and development initiatives such as cross-campus collaboration efforts, student success coaching, and multicultural education and programming.

Perla looks forward to engaging with students across campus to enhance their success. Perla's office is located in Harkins Hall 312; please feel free to stop by and say hi. If you're looking for things to chat with Perla about—she is an avid traveler. Fun Facts: she's lived in the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico for a combined eight years. She loves Bad Bunny and has the most adorable nieces & nephews, who she'll show pictures of in a heartbeat. Other than that, she loves hearing your story, so stop on by.

“Thoughts on Hispanic Heritage Month: We Share a Common Story”

BY REV. DAVID THOMAS ORIQUE, O.P., PH.D.,
DIRECTOR OF LATIN AMERICAN AND LATINA/O STUDIES

As with other groups incorporated into our shared national story, “Hispanics” in the United States form an important part of our society—a diverse, complex, and sophisticated community whose long presence or recent arrival have made invaluable societal contributions. The denomination Hispanic has layered meanings that compresses tremendous complexity into a single word—something also true of the terms “Western”, “European”, and “American”. Terminologically, Hispanic connotes enormous diversity—in social difference, cultural contrast, and linguistic variety. Derived from the Latin word *Hispanicus* (thus etymologically connected to “Spain” and “Spanish”), Hispanic conceptually attempts to connect various peoples, numerous cultures, and many nations.

Hispanic generally connotes those who speak Spanish or who are from Spanish-speaking populations, in contrast to “Latine” that denotes descendants from Latin America or the Caribbean; importantly both of these broad groupings of like complexity include those of Indigenous and African descent. Administratively, the word envisions regions and peoples associated with the former Spanish empire, which once comprised large parts of the American hemisphere from Argentina to Alaska (e.g. the toponymic towns Cordoba, Valdez, etc.), as well as portions of Africa (e.g. Equatorial Guinea) and of Asia (e.g. Philippines).

Linguistically, these areas contain millions of speakers of Spanish or local languages—that both influenced Spanish or were influenced by this Iberian tongue. Culturally, Hispanics represent the outcome of rich, varied, complex, and sophisticated interactions and exchanges, those that historically echo controversial contact, conquest, and colonization, as well as resonate in the current dynamic consequences of these convergences. As such, Hispanic as a concept implies a complex set of shared customs, traditions, and beliefs, in addition to artistic and culinary expressions that have been notionally clustered together to create a group known as “Hispanic”.



Nationally, the celebration of the Hispanic Heritage Month in the U.S.—September 15 to October 15—was proclaimed by President Reagan in 1988, which added to the week originally designated by President Johnson in 1968. As a consequence, these leaders established the annual practice of honoring the forgotten or ignored role of Hispanics in our nation’s history—those who have made or are making significant contributions as members of our society with current or historical roots in the Caribbean, in North, Central and South America, as well as in Spain. Coinciding with this month, many associated nations of the American hemisphere also commemorate their independence (viz. Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Costa Rica, Chile, and Nicaragua). Furthermore, during this month, the 12th of October is remembered in the U.S. increasingly as Indigenous People’s Day and less and less as Columbus Day—a date in October that other hemispheric countries variously denominate to acknowledge the painful history of Indigenous and African peoples. Nationally, according to Pew, U.S. Hispanics are now the largest racial or ethnic group with 56 million—a group projected to grow to 107 million by 2065.

Locally, in priestly ministry off campus in our wider community, I regularly serve parishes with sizable Spanish-speaking communities composed of the recently arrived and the long-established. In fact, in just Rhode Island, the diversity of this community is impressive. One parish has nine different nations represented as well as Puerto Rico (part of the U.S.)! (Perhaps to get a sense of this substantial distinction, imagine ten different English-speaking communities in one place—a shared language, but with enormous cultural diversity and historic differences). **All this cultural diversity is in our midst very near Providence College.** Moreover, during my eleven years at our university, I have met off-campus Hispanic families of our students—those attending now or graduates.

On campus, with the increasing number of Hispanics I hear Spanish (the mother tongue of Saint Dominic, Saint Rose of Lima, Saint Martin de Porres, Saint Juan Macias, et. al.) frequently spoken by students, faculty, and staff—important for many; although not all speak Spanish fluently, or at all. Finally, worth remembering is that the various groups making up the Hispanic community in our midst share in and enrich our common story of the United States; this is a story that touches not just the broader Rhode Island and New England communities, but also our campus friar family. **We are all connected to Hispanic Heritage Month. We share a common story.**

A banner for National Hispanic Heritage Month. The background is dark blue with a pattern of colorful, wavy vertical stripes in red, orange, and green. The text is centered and reads: "NATIONAL" in orange, "HISPANIC" in large red letters, and "HERITAGE MONTH" in orange.

**NATIONAL
HISPANIC
HERITAGE MONTH**

Highlighting Latina Faculty & Staff on Our Campus



Ms. Gabriela Moretti, from **Peru**, says that being Latina means a lot to her, and is something she believes adds extra value to the community. As she comes from a unique background, Mrs. Morretti feels that she is able to provide a different perspective and approach to situations and environments.

Her favorite part of her culture is Peruvian cuisine. The three geographical regions: the *Costa*, the *Andes*, and the *Amazonia*, all have unique cuisines that have recently become more popular in the United States of America.

Mrs. Moretti's favorite meal is a traditional Peruvian dish called **Ceviche**.



Gabriela E Moretti,
Administrative Coordinator of Education
for the Department of
Elementary/Special Education



Dr. Ana Cecilia Iraheta, from **El Salvador**, says that being Latina means she is a part of a community that is economically, socially, and politically vital for the United States, which is something she is proud of. She also says that being Latina allows her to work hard for the betterment of both the Hispanic community and the community in general.

Her favorite part of the Hispanic culture is the warmth and solidarity of the people. She says she feels at home when around other Latinos due to their warm nature and desire to help one another out of the goodness of their hearts.

Dr. Iraheta's favorite meal is a traditional El Salvadorean dish called **Pupusas**.



Dr. Ana C Iraheta,
Assistant Professor of Spanish in the
Department of World Languages
and Cultures

Ms. Mirlen Mal, from **Cuba**, is the first of her family born in the United States of America. She says that she is proud of her Cuban heritage and is humbled by what her parents endured during the Cuban Revolution and the sacrifices they made for a chance at freedom.

She emphasizes the importance of her family, reminiscing about how she grew up speaking Spanish in her household, enjoying all of her parents' Cuban cooking passed down from generations, smelling the fresh scent of Pine-Sol in the house every weekend, dancing salsa, and hearing family stories from her elders when they grew up in Cuba back in their early days.

Her favorite parts of the culture are the people, hearing the familiarity of the language, how one embraces another with hugs and kisses when they enter a room, the food, and the music.

Ms. Mal's favorite meal is a traditional Cuban dish called **Carne Asada**, served with fried plantains, rice, and black beans.



Mirlen A Mal,
Sr. Associate Vice President of Human
Resources



"Ser Latino"



A SECTION ABOUT WHAT IT MEANS TO BE LATINO. FEATURING SODEXO WORKERS ON CAMPUS

Juana, from **the Dominican Republic**, says that being a Latina is something she is very proud of. Like many other Latinos, Juana says she came to the United States with the determination and goal of giving her children better opportunities. Her favorite part of her culture is how people tend to be very charismatic and filled with joy. Juana's favorite meal is a traditional Dominican dish called **Mangú**, served with salami, fried cheese, and onions.



Juana

Cook at Alumni Dining Hall

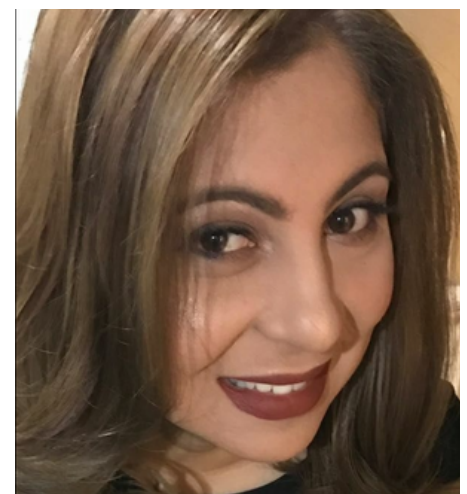


Fausto

Head Cook at Alumni Dining Hall

Fausto, from **the Dominican Republic**, emphasizes how proud he is to be Latino, saying that the culture is the best thing to exist. His favorite part of his culture is the freedom in his country and how one can eat, drink, and hang out with others freely. Fausto's favorite meal is a Dominican dish called **Moro de Guandules con Coco** served with **Pescado con Coco**, another Dominican favorite.

Iverka, from **the Dominican Republic**, is a proud Latina. She loves the versatility of being bilingual and having the ability to communicate, learn, and defend herself in both English and Spanish. Iverka's favorite parts of her culture are how joyful people are and the many types of dances. Some of her favorite dances include Bachata, Merengue, and Salsa. Iverka's favorite meal is a traditional Dominican dish known as **La Bandera**, which she prefers served with white rice, beans, and *pollo guisado*.



Iverka

Cook at Alumni Dining Hall

A Spotlight on Dr. Anthony Rodriguez

DR. ANTHONY RODRIGUEZ, PROFESSOR OF ELEMENTARY & SPECIAL EDUCATION

Dr. Anthony Rodriguez, Associate Professor of Education, is proud to be of indigenous **Mexican** descent. Born in Yonkers, New York, he grew up with his parents and sister. Dr. Rodriguez spent many years teaching in New Mexico before moving back to the North East. This is his 11th year as an associate professor of education, sharing his experiences, expertise, and love for education with Providence College students.

Touching on his experience in higher education, Dr. Rodriguez had seen a greater amount of Latinos in all levels of higher education including, Deans, Provosts, Presidents, Professors, and many students, back in New Mexico. When moving to the Northeast, he saw a lack of representation within higher education, specifically amongst professors. Dr. Rodriguez would love to see more representation within higher education, giving Latino students that support and limiting the challenges for our BIPOC community members. He plans to continue acting as an anchor for students, giving them the support needed. One of the many ways Dr. Rodriguez does this is by serving as the faculty advisor for the Organization of Latin American Students (OLAS).



Dr. Rodriguez says that being Latino means that Latinos are from here (the Americas) and are indigenous to the land, especially Mezzo America. While he acknowledges the history and colonization of his ancestors, he identifies most with his indigenous Mexican side. Dr. Rodriguez points out the lack of acknowledgment throughout the history of the Ancient Latin American civilizations and their contributions to the evolution of society. He is happy that in the past 10 years, Latinos have begun to spread more awareness of the history and advancements Latin Americans made to civilizations.

His favorite part of the Latino culture is the people's expansiveness and ability to include others. Due to the hardships, challenges, and discrimination, many Latinos have had to face. Dr. Rodriguez believes these things have contributed to the empathetic nature of the Latino culture. As he talks about this empathetic nature, Dr. Rodriguez honors his grandmother who was a selfless person, always helping those around her. She often fed the children of the field workers who worked near her house, as they were unable to be home due to their work shifts. He reminisces about how he could show up at her house in Los Angeles, in the middle of the night, and she would cook him any meal he requested. His favorite meal is a traditional Mexcian breakfast dish called **Chilaquiles**.

Dr. Rodriguez would like to leave students with an indigenous Mexican phrase:

"They thought they were burying us, but they didn't realize we were seeds."



Recent DEI Awards & Grants

Providence College has been awarded a \$250,000 grant from the Arthur Vining Davis Foundations to support ***Conversations for Change***. A new campus-wide initiative led by Dr. Nick Longo, professor of Global Studies, and Dr. Quincy Bevely, assistant vice president for Institutional Diversity, Conversations for Change will promote civil discourse across campus and in the local community. The project will foster skills for active citizenship by strategically embedding dialogue and deliberation in courses and student life and offering professional development on facilitating dialogue related to disputed questions for faculty, staff, and student leaders. Conversations for Change will educate the next generation of leaders who will make meaningful contributions, address public challenges, and promote the common good.



Dr. Nicholas Longo



Dr. Quincy Bevely

Providence College's longtime athletics director Bob Driscoll, who retired on June 30, has been chosen as the winner of the second annual **John Thompson Jr. Award**, which recognizes significant efforts within the BIG EAST Conference to fight prejudice and discrimination and advance positive societal change.

The John Thompson Jr. Award was created in October 2020 to annually recognize a BIG EAST athletic department, team, or individual who has demonstrated outstanding leadership, perseverance, and creativity in promoting an environment of inclusiveness or championing the end of discrimination, racism, and bigotry.

"In addition to serving as the architect of Providence College's many successes and advancements in the athletics realm, Bob Driscoll was a tireless proponent for the principles of racial and gender equity and helped set the standard for how a school can thoughtfully and proactively further the hiring, education, and awareness goals foundational to any effective DE&I plan," said BIG EAST Commissioner Val Ackerman. "His moral framework has inspired many of us within the conference and lines up with the principles Coach Thompson so passionately espoused."



Mr. Bob Driscoll

"During his time as Vice President/Athletics Director, Bob Driscoll consistently showed an unwavering support for equity and inclusion. Faithful to the mission of Providence College, he created a culture in our Athletics Department in which student-athletes, coaches, and staff members felt valued, appreciated, and respected as individuals created in the image of God. Bob set an example for many of us on campus to follow. I cannot think of a more worthy candidate for the John Thompson Jr. Award," Rev. Kenneth Sicard, O.P., Ph.D. Providence College President.

Driscoll, who served as the athletics director at Providence for 21 years, forcefully advocated for diversity, equity and inclusion within the PC athletic department and the college at large and pushed to make DE&I a major component in both strategic plans.

The Organization of Latin American Students (OLAS)

A CLUB FOR STUDENTS HERE ON CAMPUS



The Organization of Latin American Students (OLAS) is a group of students of Latin American descent who bring awareness, culture, and support to all things Latin American/Hispanic. OLAS welcomes everyone regardless of national origin, identity, or language. The club creates a space in which students are able to fully explore and tap into their identities as Latin American students at Providence College while embracing all of the other different parts of their identities.

This is especially celebrated during OLAS' weekly meetings, every **Thursday from 6-7 p.m. in Moore Hall, Room 120**, in which they discuss prevalent topics in Latin America, and then play a game or activity to remind us of our roots and further develop meaningful bonds through a little friendly competition.

OLAS is also the leading group that brings Latin American culture to the Providence College campus. This is done by OLAS exec members organizing several events throughout the semester where they offer delicious food and opportunities for cultural enrichment.

In the calendar below, you will find all of the OLAS events that will be held this Fall semester, with many more to come in the Spring, including the CARNAV(ALL), which will be a community-wide celebration of culture on campus! OLAS is also excited to announce that this year, they will be starting up the celebration of Holy Mass in Spanish every month.



OLAS is much more than a student organization here at PC. It is La Familia that opens its arms to everyone, whether you're a student of Latin American descent or someone who wants to learn more about our beautiful cultures.

Make sure to follow OLAS on Instagram @pc_olas or scan the QR code to stay updated and connected with them! For further information about OLAS as an organization on campus, please reach out to Catalina Betancur at cbetac1@friars.providence.edu.

"We thank you for taking the time to learn a little bit about them and welcome you to join us for our meetings

Thursdays at 6 p.m. in Moore 120, see you there!"

- OLAS Exec Members

OLAS FALL EVENT CALENDAR:

Thursday, September 15th, from 6-8pm in Moore 120: Joint celebration for the independence days of Mexico, Chile, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador & Costa Rica that happen in the month of September! We will be celebrating with food and candy, which are small reminders of our roots and our history.

Thursday, September 22nd, from 6-8pm in Peterson Rec Center: *World Cup Tournament!*
A fun Friday night where we will be teaming up with Intramural sports for an around the world . OLAS will be co-sponsoring with other multicultural clubs and will provide snacks and beverages to the players and attendees. This is a fun activity to de-stress and have fun with friends and meet people of different identities through a sport that brings us all together!

Wednesday, October 12th, from 6-7pm in Moore 125: *LatinXpo*
An educational/ artistic event in the midst of Hispanic Heritage Month by highlighting some of the beautiful Latin American identities on campus. This event is a portrait exhibit and dinner will be served. PC Photo Club will take portraits of some of the members of our club and some of the dining hall and public safety staff. In these portraits, the models will showcase something special about their country or culture to which they identify with. This will be a beautiful celebration of culture on campus. We'll see you there!

Friday, November 1st, from 7-8pm in Moore 125: *Dia de los Muertos Celebration and presentation of our community Ofrenda in Moore Hall*
We will be decorating wooden skulls, making 'papel picado', and marigold vase decorating. We will also be serving authentic Mexican food while people decorate. Like every year we will have the Ofrenda available in Moore Hall in order for people bring in photos of their loved ones, pay their respects, connect with them, and pray. BOP will be helping us with the decorating materials and also working with us for the logistics of this event.

Wednesday, November 16th, 7-8pm in Moore 125: *Sabor Latino*
An annual event that provides the campus with a chance to enjoy traditional Latin American food. There will be a QR code next to every traditional dish from a country to highlight the historical and cultural information on the food and its origin. Throughout the event, there will be music playing in order for participants to dance, enjoy the event and the cultural variety. This is a chance for students to enjoy and celebrate Latin culture with authentic music and food which has been a huge request that students have made to OLAS. This will also be in co-sponsorship with BOP!

Monthly Celebrations of the Holy Mass in Spanish - Music and prayers in Spanish.

More info to come through our Instagram (@pc_olas)

Additional events to be on the lookout for to support our students of underrepresented identities:

SHEPARD Open House

Afro-Am's Rep your flag

Asian-Am's Mid-Autumn Festival

Motherland Fashion Show

OLAS Instagram QR code:





IDEI T-SHIRTS!

STOP BY IDEI IN HARKINS 312 &
ANSWER THE QUESTION OF
THE DAY TO GET OUR
AWESOME NEW IDEI T-SHIRT!!
AVAILABLE WHILE SUPPLIES LAST.



Newsletter Created by:
Alexandra Guzman '22, '23G