Anna Ochoa O’Leary, Asst. Professor of Practice, and a colleague from El Colegio De Sonora (Col-son) in Mexico have just released a report that sheds new light on the health of women who migrate from that country to the United States. More than 160 women were interviewed for the study, with roughly half of the interviews being conducted in the U.S. and half south of the border.

Ochoa O’Leary and Colson’s Gloria Ciria Valdés-Gardea, make policy recommendations that include developing educational materials for women and social service workers, improving access to medical care for migrant women, and changing policies in both countries that have the effect of harming the health and violating the human rights of migrant women. “One of the objectives of the study was to gather evidence about the effects that changes in health care delivery policies in Arizona might have on mixed-immigration status families,” Ochoa O’Leary says.

The report, titled “A Multidisciplinary Binational Study of Migrant Women in the Context of a U.S.-Mexico Border Reproductive Health Care Continuum,” was funded with a grant from the binational Programa de Investigación de Migración y Salud (PIMSA). The study was begun in the Spring of 2008 and ended in December 2009.

Assistant Professor Rosario Carrillo was recently awarded $23,000 from the UA Provost’s Office to increase the archival holdings of the Arizona LGBT Storytelling Project Archive. The funding comes via the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (AHSS) Grants for Faculty program established by Provost Meredith Hay last semester to support collaborations between faculty in the College of Humanities, the College of Fine Arts and the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Carrillo writes that the project “will increase the current archival holdings by focusing data collection on LGBT Mexican American and Native American communities. This will enable the archive to fully capture the diversity of voices in Tucson and Phoenix LGBT populations and make these voices accessible to scholars, students and the general public.”

Associate Professor Andrea Romero is the Co-Investigator of a National Institutes of Health grant to improve home care for the elderly. The $375,000, two-year grant will fund the professional production and testing of a short film “Todo Ha Cambiado” (Everything Has Changed) that portrays an elder’s and her family’s decision to use home care services to help her manage her chronic conditions while keeping the culturally important family central to her experience. Associate Professor Janice D. Crist, of the UA College of Nursing, is the Principal Investigator of the project.

Assistant Professor Patrisia Gonzales has been awarded a $9,800 Faculty Small Grant from the Office of the Vice President of Research and the UA Foundation for a collaborative research project on the preservation and adaptation of Indigenous medicine. The research will explore how Indigenous knowledge adapts as it is integrated into Western knowledge-producing structures based on the observations of Indigenous elders and healers who have participated in traditional medicine programs offered at Mexican universities. The research project, which will be done in collaboration with Indigenous healers, several Mexican universities and the University of Arizona, includes training a graduate student in Indigenous research methods.
Adjunct Professor Raquel Rubio Goldsmith was presented with the Medallion Award for Exemplary Lifelong Service by the Hispanic Professional Action Committee (HPAC) on February 18. The award is in honor of her many years of service and dedication to the Tucson community.

The award notice from HPAC states: “We will acknowledge your unflinching advocacy and dedication to Chicanos and other ethnic minorities, immigrants and low-income populations. You have been an exemplary leader with your strength, tenacity and wisdom. Your uncompromising advocacy and honor as you have championed equity and dignity for all but most importantly for undocumented immigrants have helped provide both the tools and the inspiration for others who have followed your footsteps.” The ceremony took place at the the Stillwell House in downtown Tucson.

The Western Association of Women Historians has appointed Asst. Professor Lydia Otero to their Founders’ Dissertation Fellowship Committee that recognizes graduate students who show promise of significant contributions to historical scholarship.

She also has been appointed to the editorial board of Chicana/Latina Studies: The Journal of Mujeres Activas en Letras y Cambio Social, an interdisciplinary, peer reviewed, bi-annual publication of Mujeres Activas en Letras y Cambio Social (MALCS).

MA&RS Dept. Head Antonio Estrada’s most recent publications include: “Mexican Americans and Historical Trauma Theory: A Theoretical Perspective,” published in the Journal of Ethnicity and Substance Abuse (Vol. 8, No. 3, July-Sept. 2009), and “Barriers to HIV/AIDS Medical Care among HIV-Infected Latinos Residing along the U.S.-Mexico Border,” co-authored with Barbara Estrada, which is a chapter in HIV/AIDS: Global Frontiers in Prevention/Intervention, edited by Cynthia Pope, Renée T. White and Robert Malow, and published by Routledge.


MASA Enters Its Second Year

The Mexican American Student Association (MASA) is now in its second year. With several milestones already accomplished, MASA continues to promote higher education, and support graduate students. It also seeks to be a bridge connecting the community and scholars on the UA campus.

I would like to thank the faculty, staff, students, and community for the support and success of MASA. As we follow our mission to unite and support minority graduate students, we look forward to a promising future.

Our next milestone will take place on March 24, 2010, at the UA’s first-ever graduate minority symposium. This symposium will allow current graduate students to share their on-going research or thesis proposals with members of our local community. We invite you to come observe and provide constructive criticism to the future generation of scholars. Your presence will mean a lot to those presenting. For more information, please contact me at lgamboa@email.arizona.edu.

—Lorenzo Gamboa, Chair