Established in December 2010 through the efforts of the Latino/Hispanic alumni community, the U.S. Latino Studies Endowed Fund is a permanent means of support for U.S. Latino Studies at Brown. U.S. Latino Studies is a focus-area within the Ethnic Studies undergraduate concentration. The program is housed at Brown’s esteemed Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in America (CSREA), which was founded in 1986 as one of the nation’s earliest academic centers dedicated to research, scholarship, and academic exchanges in the field of Ethnic Studies.

At Brown there is a strong interest from students to engage in U.S. Latino Studies scholarship and programming. Moreover, U.S. Latino issues are increasingly prominent nationally—from the focus on the Latino/Hispanic vote during the 2012 election to immigration policy. But additional resources are needed in order for the University to offer more robust U.S. Latino Studies coursework, research opportunities, mentoring, programming, and events. The U.S. Latino Studies Endowed Fund enables the CSREA to continue on its path of filling this curricular gap.

Interdisciplinary Focus

U.S. Latino Studies at Brown, which focuses on the culture, history, and politics of the U.S. Latino population, is a true representation of the University’s interdisciplinary ethos. Students from various concentrations are drawn to U.S. Latino Studies courses, research projects, programs, and events. Courses have been offered through the departments of American Studies, Comparative Literature, History, Political Science, and Theater Arts and Performance Studies, in addition to the Ethnic Studies program.

Forming an Identity

As a field that has its roots in the 1960s and 1970s with the appearance of Chicano and Puerto Rican Studies programs, U.S. Latino Studies is constantly evolving. The U.S. Latino Studies Endowed Fund provides an opportunity to advance a uniquely Brown identity for the discipline.

Today, U.S. Latino Studies at Brown strives to look at the broader spectrum of Latinos and Latinas from across the diverse communities that exist in the United States. Resources provided by this Endowed Fund will allow faculty and students to tailor U.S. Latino Studies courses, research, and programming around specific themes and provide a meaningful foundation from which the discipline can continue to grow at Brown.

Research

The U.S. Latino Studies Endowed Fund helps kick start innovative research projects in the social sciences and humanities. For example, visiting professor Hilda Lloréns, Ph.D. received funding to launch an examination of cultural meanings of success and identity for Dominican girls, ages 14-18, in Providence, RI. Dr. Lloréns collaborates with faculty from the departments of Education and Public Health, underscoring the interdisciplinary nature of U.S. Latino Studies. This research provides an opportunity for Brown undergraduates to conduct fieldwork, engage the local community, and gain valuable experience that can lead to further scholarship and graduate study.

“My ‘Introduction to Ethnic Studies’ and ‘Latino Literature’ classes are where you see real diversity on campus… Ethnic Studies and U.S. Latino Studies are certainly serving students who are underrepresented at Brown.”

Ralph Rodriguez
Associate Professor, American Studies, Ethnic Studies, and English
Director of Graduate Studies, American Studies

Dr. Hilda Lloréns
Through your gift to the U.S. Latino Studies Endowed Fund, you will help

- sponsor U.S. Latino Studies-related programming and events that bring students together around shared interests;
- support faculty research and scholarship;
- offer talks from nationally prominent speakers;
- bring visiting professors—experts in U.S. Latino Studies—to teach and work with Brown students; and
- allow students to attend valuable conferences and conduct research trips as part of their honors theses.

In the past the Endowed Fund has supported

- the East Coast Chicano Student Forum and the Latino Student Commencement Dinner;
- the Latino Politics project, which included a conference that resulted in a report about Latino voters in Rhode Island;
- bringing respected U.S. Latino Studies scholars to campus to engage with students and faculty, including Sean Arce, former director of the Mexican-American studies program in the Tucson Unified School District, Jose Muñoz, professor of performance studies at NYU, and Tony Affigne, professor of political science at Providence College; and
- curricular development through its support of the "Race and Gender in the Latino Community" and "Ethnic Writing" courses.

Please show your commitment to U.S. Latino Studies at Brown by making a gift to the U.S. Latino Studies Endowed Fund today.

To learn more about contributing to the U.S. Latino Studies Endowed Fund, please contact a member of the staff:

The Alumni of Color Initiative
Box 1893
Providence, RI 02912-1893 USA
Phone: (401) 863-1730  /  Fax: (401) 863-3301
Alumni_of_Color@brown.edu

To make an online contribution, visit gifts.brown.edu, click “Give Now,” scroll to the bottom of the giving page to the heading “The Alumni of Color Initiative,” and check the box for “U.S. Latino Studies Endowed Fund.”

“Here at Brown, we’re employing one of the most forward-looking approaches to U.S. Latino Studies. The endowment has made an enormous difference for our scholarship and programming, it brings much-deserved attention to the discipline and helps us continue on this trajectory.”

Evelyn Hu-DeHart PMAT’06
Professor of History
Director, Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in America

“Learning about yourself is a really unique opportunity, because we don’t often have the chance in school to learn the real history about where we come from. When students know their history—and where they’re from—they are empowered in the classroom.”

Saudi Garcia ’14
Anthropology concentrator from Valley Stream, NY

Additional information is available online at: Giving.Brown.edu/Initiatives/AOCI/US-Latino