

Portland **EL OBSERVADOR** Observer

# PSU Chicano/Latino Studies Recognizes Hispanic Students

Hispanics comprised 6.7 percent of Oregon's population in 1999, but accounted for less than 1 percent of higher education enrollment and less than 1 percent of those earning degrees, according to Maria Alanis Ruiz, coordinator of the Chicano/Latino Studies program at Portland State University, hispanic students face many barriers and are under-represented in higher education.

In recognition of the obstacles these hispanic students have overcome, the PSU's Chicano/Latino Studies program at Portland State University produces an annual gala that highlights achievements and provides scholarships to assist with the completion of their studies toward a degree. Gala 2000 was held Saturday, Oct. 14 at the Doubletree Hotel Lloyd Center, 800 NE Multnomah in Portland 7:30 p.m.

The event awarded scholarships of \$1,000 for academic achievement and community involvement to 16 of PSU's stellar hispanic students. In addition, supporters of the Chicano/Latino Studies program, and the hispanic community at-large, recognized Dr. Juan Mestas, Jose Romero, Carlos Vera and Lisa Andrus Rivera. The recipients of the \$1,000 scholarships were Vanessa Chavez, Ana Gandanilla, Alonso Melendez,



16 students from the Chicano/Latino Studies were awarded \$1,000 scholarships at a gala held at Double Tree Lloyd Center on Oct. 14.

Josefina Espinoza, Josefina Puente, Adrian Villalobos, Perla Pinedo, Charlene Robles Romero, Dave Jimenez, Sandra Alvarez, Elsa Tellez, Diana Lara, Josie Minne Bruno, Elena Bejarano, Miguel Cabrera and

David Jimenez. A crowd of over 600 were in attendance to hear scheduled speakers Ernestina Garcia, Associate Superintendent, Oregon State Dept. of Education, and

Daniel Santos from the Oregon State Education and Work Policy department, as well as the evening's featured performers, "Dr. Loco" and his Rocking Jalapeno Band.

# Cantores in Ecclesia to Perform Homecoming

The boys, girls and adults of Gregorian chant and sacred polyphony from all periods on Sunday, November 12, in St. Patrick's Church, Northwest 19th & Raleigh in Portland, at 7:30 p.m.

The program will include music that was recently performed in several churches in Chicago during the first week of November. Featured on the program will be the *Missa 'Laetatus sum'* for 12 voices (or three choirs) by Spanish Renaissance composer Tomás Luis de Victoria.

This mass was originally composed when Victoria was Maestro de Cappella of the Collegium Germanicum in Rome. Other music will include sections of Herbert Howells' *Requiem*; Maurice Duruflé's *Ubicaritas*; Anton Bruckner's *Os justi* mediantibus; settings of the Ave Maria

by Gabriel Fauré, Robert Parsons, Casals's *Nigra sum*; and Samuel Wesley's *Si iniquitates*.

All of this music was performed in Chicago at the invitation of His Eminence, Francis Cardinal George, Archbishop of Chicago. Tickets will be available on the day of the concert at the door of St. Patrick's: \$10 general admission; \$8 seniors and children.

Cantores in Ecclesia, under the direction of Dean Applegate, is an ensemble of boys, girls and adults who specialize in Gregorian chant and sacred polyphony from all periods. The choir has been featured in BBC Magazine and has performed throughout Europe, Mexico and the western United States. In 1997 the choir was awarded three gold medals in the International Palestrina Competition in Rome.

# State Farm Meets Needs of Spanish-Speaking Policyholders

State Farm is continuing efforts to meet the needs of its customers with the new bilingual customer response center.

The El Paso site is another extension of the agent and is now taking after-hours calls in Spanish or English from customers nationwide.

"With the El Paso CRC, we look forward to better serving the needs of our Spanish-speaking customers and adding a new dimension of service for State Farm," said Deborah Traskell, Vice President of Regional Services. According to the U.S.

census in 1990, there were 17 million people who primarily spoke Spanish. By 2020, 52 million people in the United States will be of Hispanic descent and these numbers will keep growing.

In addition to El Paso, State Farm has CRC sites in Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minn.; Jacksonville, Fla.; and Bloomington, Ill. The CRC's assisted 4 million policyholders in 1999.

State Farm serves nearly 67 million policyholders in the United States and Canada, insuring about one in every five insured cars and one in four homes.

# The 6th Annual Day of the Dead Festival

The Miracle Theatre Group continues its 16th season of magic and dreams with the Milagro Bailadores 6th annual the Día de los Muertos Festival. Join the Milagro Bailadores as they explore the celebration of life and death, and the symbolism of the Days of the Dead as it is revealed through traditional Mexican and modern dances, puppetry, song and verse.

Under the direction of Rebecca Martinez, with original music composed by Rodolfo Ortega, choreography by Tamara Castillo Gray, Rosa Floyd, and Kris Vercooterren, the Día de los Muertos Festival takes us on an enchanted journey as we enter the world of Juanito, who is dead.

It happened Friday, March 24, at 10:48 a.m. It's been tough on his sweetheart. But now the Days of the Dead are drawing near and the rejoicing has begun. How-

ever, there is a problem. Juanito has never made the trip from the land of the dead before, and he never has been really good with directions. Will he make it back in time? Will he and his sweetheart be reunited? Join the Milagro Bailadores as they dance and sing their way through Juanito's journey to the land of the living.

The festival of the Days of the Dead is an observance with very ancient roots in Mexico. For pre-Hispanic cultures, life was considered to be no more than a passing moment, a dream from which one would wake up again amongst the dead. Death, represented throughout time as a skeleton, finally was represented in the 19th century as a friendly, comical figure, a familiar friend.

Today, the Days of the Dead are celebrated each year on Nov. 1 and 2. On these days, it is be-

lieved the dead come from the beyond to visit with the living.

Special foods are prepared, breads are baked, and altars to the dead and cemeteries are cleaned and decorated with flowers. The souls of the dead are said to return from the after-life, to visit the living, where they consume the food and drink left for them.

The living receive the dead with merriment, music, and all the things they enjoyed while living.

The Día de los muertos Festival runs from Oct. 27 - Nov. 11. Opening night is Friday, Oct. 27 at 8 p.m., tickets are \$12. The production continues through Nov. 11, Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. All performances will be held at El Centro Milagro, 525 SE Stark. For reservations and information, please call 503/236-7253.



The Day of the Dead will be celebrated this year on Wednesday, Nov. 1 and Thursday, Nov. 2. In observation of this ancient Mexican custom, the Day of the Dead Festival will be held at the El Centro Milagro in Portland.

Piénselo: Usted se siente orgulloso de los hijos que crió. Sus nietos también son hermosos e inteligentes. La realidad de la jubilación finalmente ha llegado y ha resultado mejor de lo que imaginaba. Pero todo esto no lo hubiera logrado sin

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el respaldo de una familia. American Family Mutual Insurance. Cuando se trata de su futuro, usted puede confiar en una compañía con más de 70 años de experiencia en el campo de los seguros. Con más de seis millones de pólizas en un área que cubre 14 estados y una calificación consistente A+ (Superior) por la autoridad en seguros A.M. Best, tenemos el tipo de estabilidad que le permite relajarse. ¿Y no era eso justamente lo que tenía en mente? Así que llame hoy mismo y hable con uno de nuestros amables y serviciales agentes. Y entonces, ¡empiece a gozar! Nosotros estaremos respaldándolo.

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