
THE LATINO MIGRATION PROJECT

2019 Year in Review

MISSION

The Latino Migration Project provides public education and applied research related to Latin American migration and integration in North Carolina. We inform policy and practices to enhance the well-being and leadership of new North Carolinians. We train students to understand the complexities of migration and address challenges and opportunities of demographic change.

OUR APPROACH

We carry out our mission through participatory processes that expand public understandings of immigrant experiences, build the civic leadership of new North Carolinians and expand the capacity of local governments to engage with immigrant residents. The LMP was established in 2006 as an initiative of the Institute for the Study of the Americas and the Center for Global Initiatives at UNC Chapel Hill.



Students in APPLES Global Course Guanajuato gained leadership skills at the UNC Outdoor Education Center last spring

Building Integrated Communities

Building Integrated Communities (BIC) is a community planning and leadership initiative that partners with NC local governments to create inclusive practices and policies for residents born in other countries.



Chatham County residents advocated for the BIC action plan at the Siler City Town Commissioners meeting last spring

In 2019, the BIC initiative launched action plans for immigrant integration in Chapel Hill ([English](#) or [Spanish](#)) and Siler City ([English](#) or [Spanish](#)). The action plans are the result of two years of public meetings and strategy sessions that engaged immigrant and refugee residents, detailed in the reports, “Chapel Hill Community Perspectives and Recommendations for Local Government” (in [English](#) or [Spanish](#)) and “Siler City Community Perspectives and Recommendations for Local Government” (in [English](#) or [Spanish](#)). The Action Plans address five key areas: public transportation, housing, public safety and law enforcement, leadership, and government communication.

Student Profile, Eduardo Fernandez

When BIC conducted a participatory community assessment in Siler City in 2017, youth participants shared concerns about their mental health. BIC recruited Eddy Fernandez, a Siler City native and UNC student, to lead an effort to connect with his peers and gather recommendations. Through interviews with service providers, teachers, and high school students, he provided evidence of a significant increase in suicide ideation, depression and anxiety among local teens, exacerbated in recent years by a nationwide increase in hate crime and deportations. Youth recommendations informed the Siler City BIC Action plan, which presents comprehensive strategies to support Latinx students’ mental health in local schools. To learn more about Mr. Fernandez’ research and background growing up in Siler City, including a young person’s perspective on the history of the fight against racism in Chatham County, read his [complete interview](#) in the Nuevas Raíces oral histories. Mr. Fernandez graduated in 2019 and now works to promote health and well-being as Research Analyst at the National Academy for State Health Policy in Washington, D.C.

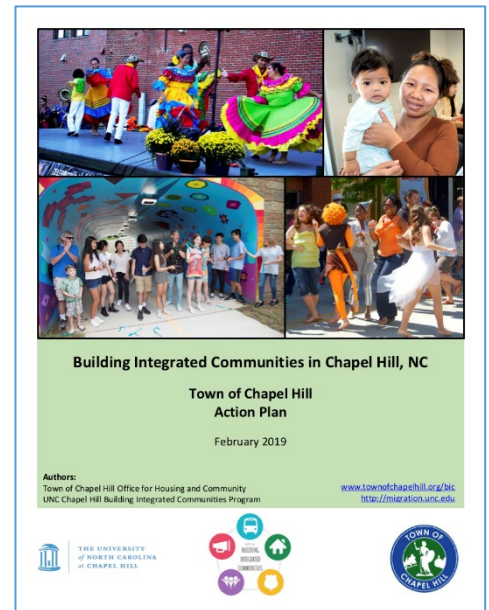


BIC receives grant from Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation

In December 2019, The Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation awarded BIC \$161,170 to expand Building Integrated Communities’ work across the state. **BIC is currently accepting applications** from local governments for partnerships from 2020-2023. To apply, visit <https://migration.unc.edu/call-for-applications-2019/>

The Town of Chapel Hill Language Access Plan

On November 13, 2019, the Chapel Hill Town Council unanimously approved a Language Access Plan for Town services and programs. This Plan will help ensure the Town moves towards policies and procedures supporting the right of all residents to communicate with the Town in the language in which they prefer. Language access allows community members to use and benefit from a wide range of services. In recent years, the Town has become increasingly aware of the communication gap with residents who speak languages other than English. In 2018, as part of the Building Integrated Communities (BIC) Project, Chapel Hill's immigrant and refugee residents identified language access as a key strategy for the Town to advance. To read the complete Chapel Hill Building Integrated Communities Action Plan, visit <https://migration.unc.edu/chapel-hill-project/>



Sanford Signs Sister City Agreement with Atizapán de Zaragoza, Mexico



NC Secretary of State Elaine Marshall and Sanford officials welcomed a delegation from Atizapán, México in October

On October 5, Mayor Chet Mann, members of the Sanford City Council, five municipal delegates from [Atizapán de Zaragoza, Mexico](#), and the Sister Cities Association of Sanford met at the Sanford Municipal Center for the official signing of a Sister City agreement between the two cities. The City of Sanford and Lee County collaborated with UNC's Building Integrated Communities program from 2014-2017 to expand leadership opportunities and enhance communication with immigrant residents. Oscar Roberto, BIC committee member who was later appointed to the Lee County Planning Board, provided language interpretation. BIC committee member Bob Bridwell provided a blessing. Learn more about BIC in Sanford and Lee County [here](#).

Winston Salem BIC hosts second annual Newcomers Symposium

The Winston Salem Building Integrated Communities Newcomers Symposium (an outcome of Winston Salem BIC, 2014-2017) organized its second annual statewide conference in October for agencies throughout North Carolina that assist immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers. Presentations covered topics such as legal issues for newcomers, human trafficking in North Carolina, scams and other newcomer vulnerabilities, fair housing law as it applies to national origin and more, and law enforcement best practices.

Public Events



The LMP organized public events across the state that engaged **more than 1,500 people**. Speakers included world-renowned journalist **Óscar Martínez** and climate scientist **Edwin Castellanos**. Our collaborators included The College of Arts and Sciences, the UNC Duke Consortium in Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Central Carolina Community College, The Center for the Study of the American South, and the Southern Oral History Program.

Edwin Castellanos, climate scientist from the Universidad del Valle, Guatemala, delivered [a keynote speech](#) at the North Carolina Conference on Latin American Studies in February, entitled, "Is climate change a factor in the recent migration events from the Northern Triangle in Central America?"

Expert Witnesses in Asylum Proceedings Training

The UNC School of Law and the Institute for the Study of the Americas organized an "Expert Witnesses in Asylum Proceedings Training" in November for faculty and graduate students. Expert witnesses and immigration attorneys explained the uses of expert evidence in asylum claims, offered practical advice on providing written and oral testimony, and engaged in a discussion on the collaboration between attorneys and experts. For more information about the Expert Witness Project, contact Deborah Weissman weissman@email.unc.edu



ISA Executive Director Beatriz Riefkohl Muñiz and UNC law professor Deborah Weissman

Student Training

Announcing a new course! Heritage and Migration in North Carolina



The Latino Migration Project is delighted to announce a new course for Spring 2020: Heritage and Migration in North Carolina: LTAM 390, 690.

This three-credit course combines field research, oral history, and service learning to understand the immigration and settlement of North Carolinians with Mexican and Latin American heritage. The course will address the ethical and practical aspects of the

ethnographic method including the preparation, transaction and transcription of oral history interviews. Students will participate in the [New Roots Nuevas Raíces](#) initiative and spend spring break (March 8-13, 2020) in Ocracoke, North Carolina, where they will collaborate with a local school to facilitate bilingual family heritage workshops and assist with recovery efforts from Hurricane Dorian.

APPLES Global Course Guanajuato

Nine undergraduate students participated in the APPLES Global Course Guanajuato Program in the spring of 2019 and received training in oral history methods. These students and LMP staff conducted more than 40 hours of interviews with key informants about migrant experiences in NC, to be archived with the New Roots collection. Narrators explore topics such as immigration policies, community services and programs, culture and identity, access to education, migrants' journeys, and much more. We want to give a special thanks to all of the students and staff who conducted interviews.



UNC students attend a dinner with Beth Bee, ECU geography professor

Student research: Supporting English language learners in K-12 schools

UNC undergrad Hannah Marable worked with the LMP as a Student Undergraduate Research Fellow last summer. She conducted oral histories with educators across the state who work with English-learner (EL) students. Her research explored how



schools are working to improve learning outcomes for students. She presented recommendations to the New Hanover County Board of Education in August (her home county). She described her findings: "School challenges include a lack of diversity and bilingualism among employees, especially in leadership roles, a struggle to recruit Hispanic and African-Americans families. I hoped that my presentation would get the Board invested in creating strong supports for ELs as the population continues to grow in my county."

New oral histories, coming soon on the New Roots website:

Bob Bridwell: Deacon Bridwell shares his responsibilities at St. Stephen Catholic Church and his work surrounding immigration legal services. He mentions his long career of city planning and activism and discusses the biggest challenges facing immigrant families in North Carolina.

Marisa Carlton: Born in Mexico, Carlton shares her experience of moving to the United States and living in the southern states of Mississippi, Texas, and North Carolina. She details her life experiences, her work with refugees in a non-profit, and how migration enabled her to clarify what she wanted to do in college.

Elizabeth Cieza: Cieza shares her family's experiences with healthcare access in the United States as well as in Peru.

Ilana Dubester: Founder and executive director of the Hispanic Liaison in Siler City, Dubester recounts her role as an advocate in a legal situation between a poultry processing company and the residents of a mobile home park. She explains the historic negotiations between Mountaire Farms and residents of Johnson's Mobile Home Park.

Peter Gordon: UNC faculty member Peter Gordon narrates the WWII migration story of his father, Samuel Chrabolowski Gordon, who was born to a Jewish family in Poland. Sam Gordon escaped Nazi persecution by migrating to Mexico, where he served as the doctor of a refugee camp in León, Guanajuato before eventually settling in the United States.

Jorge Gutiérrez: Jorge Gutiérrez shares his work as the Coordinator of the Building Integrated Communities Initiative. He discusses the Chapel Hill Carrboro school system and shares his experience as a father of two children.

Keyla Ferretiz: Keyla Ferretiz is a first generation Mexican-American living in North Carolina. She shares her parent's migration story of moving to the United States along with her own experiences growing up in the South.

Jillian La Serna: Jill La Serna describes her position as the former principal of Carrboro Elementary School and its Spanish-English dual language program. She discusses the school's unique parental engagement model. She touches on the future of the school, teacher recruitment, district funding, and the importance of maintaining clear goals.

Vicky Muñiz Quiñones: Vicky Muñiz Quiñones tells us about her history in education as a student and as a professor at the University of Puerto Rico. She details her experience of moving to the United States after Hurricane Maria in 2017 and explains why many Puerto Ricans are moving to North Carolina.

Sofia Ocegueda: Ocegueda describes her experiences as a second-generation immigrant and a first-generation college student in Durham, North Carolina and shares her parent's migration story.

Alba Sanchez: Sanchez describes her experience of living in Costa Rica and shares her migration journey to the United States. She talks about her passion to learn English and her role as the Immigrant Welcome Center Manager at the Latin American Coalition in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Stefania Arteaga: Arteaga discusses her role as the Statewide Immigrant's Rights Organizer for the American Civil Liberties Union of North Carolina. She discusses the impact of immigration policies in Charlotte and other cities. She also talks about her family's migration to the United States from El Salvador.

Yesenia Pedro Vicente: Vicente shares a second interview with the New Roots initiative and reflects on the past five years of living and teaching in Phoenix, Arizona after graduating from UNC in 2013. She contrasts between living in North Carolina and the Southwest and talks about her hometown of Morganton, NC and its annual Food Festival.

Abu Zaeem: Zaeem shares about his role as Principal of the Doris Henderson Newcomers School in Greensboro, a unique school where new immigrant students receive language training and preparation for public schools.



FPG Bilingüe Elementary School oral history workshops

In the summer of 2019, we collaborated with FPG Bilingüe Elementary School, the UNC-Duke Consortium in Latin American and Caribbean Studies Outreach Program, and UNC Libraries' Southern Historical Collection to incorporate a family history pedagogy into the FPG Bilingüe summer program curriculum. We conducted workshops with 300+ K-5 students and hosted a family storytelling night at the school, where we recorded students interviewing family members about their family history. Students were excited to take home a USB drive with the recording to share with other family members. Thanks to collaborators Corin Zaragoza Estrera and Chaitra Powell for their expertise and Dylan Clark at [InHerit](#) for sharing oral history materials.



Faculty Connections: Peter Gordon learns about family history in Guanajuato



UNC faculty member Peter Gordon shared oral histories for New Roots that narrate the WWII migration story of his father, Samuel Chrabolowski Gordon, who was born to a Jewish family in Poland. Sam Gordon escaped Nazi persecution by migrating to Mexico, where he served as the doctor of a refugee camp in León, Guanajuato for three years before eventually settling in the United States. Peter traveled to Guanajuato in March 2019 to learn more about this family history. He describes his experiences there:

“In Leon I was taken on a tour by Gloria Carreño, a scholar from the National Autonomous University of Mexico who had written a book about the refugee camp at Santa Rosa. We were accompanied by Sylvia Franco, the daughter of a woman who had been a refugee at the camp. We discussed the improbable circumstances that led over 1400 Poles to travel across the Soviet Union to Iran, and then to India, before being taken by the US Navy across the Pacific to a then-remote part of Mexico. Gloria told us about how the camp operated and about the political events that led to its creation. Sylvia told us about the hardships that her mother experienced. I told them about my father. He was a Polish Jew who completed medical school in France just as World War II started. After the defeat of France by the Nazis he -- like many others -- was desperate to get out of Europe. He escaped thanks to an entrance visa to Mexico,

issued to him by the Mexican Consular General to France, Gilberto Bosques. As a doctor in Mexico who was fluent in both Polish and Spanish, my father must have seemed like an obvious choice for the post of camp doctor when preparations began a year later for the arrival of the Poles who found refuge at Santa Rosa.

The history of Santa Rosa was very alive the day that we visited. A crew was there filming the site and recording stories from those who knew parts of its history. A local activist was there discussing plans to have the Hacienda turned into a museum. He had the sense, which I share, that reflecting upon the good that came out of the efforts made 75 years ago to help the refugees at Santa Rosa might encourage people to help today's migrants and refugees.”

Peter Gordon is Professor in the Cognitive Psychology Program within the Department of Psychology and Neuroscience at UNC Chapel Hill.

More good news

New Roots team publishes article in the *Oral History Review*



New Roots team members Hannah Gill, Jaycie Vos, Laura Villa-Torres, and Maria Silvia Ramírez published the article in the *Oral History Review*, “Migration and Inclusive Transnational Heritage: Digital Innovation and the New Roots Latino Oral History Initiative.” <https://academic.oup.com/ohr/article/46/2/277/5530152>

In this article, the authors offer insight into the kinds of oral history practices that can advance a paradigm of inclusive transnational heritage with migrant populations. They describe new digital tools and strategies designed to facilitate global access to oral histories and engage migrants and other stakeholders in public history initiatives.

Humanities for Public Good initiative funds the LMP

The LMP secured funding for family history workshops with high school students in Hyde County (Ocracoke) in eastern NC from the Humanities for Public Good initiative. UNC students in the new Heritage and Migration in NC class will travel to Ocracoke over spring break 2020 to participate in the workshops.

Millie Ravenel wins the 2019 Sharon S. Mújica Award



Hannah Gill, Millie Ravenel and Sharon Mújica (left to right) at the ISA Faculty Dinner in December 2019

Millie Ravenel is the recipient of the 2019 Sharon S. Mújica Award. She is honored for her long career as the Executive Director of the North Carolina Center for International Understanding in Raleigh from 1979 – 2011, during which she created programs that sent more than 8,000 North Carolina teachers, public officials, and other leaders to 48 different countries. She established the Latino Initiative, which has built exchanges with communities in Mexico for decades. Upon retirement, Millie founded the American Friends of the Bajío, which raises funds and salary support for our longtime partners in Mexico at the Fundación Comunitaria del Bajío. The Fundación is an organization that supports education and infrastructural development in rural migrant communities in Central Mexico, and has welcomed hundreds of North Carolinians for decades, many of which participate in programs that Millie Ravenel founded. We honor her for decades of collaboration and commitment, which continue to this day.

Carolina Center for Public Service awards the LMP a grant to support disaster recovery

The Carolina Center for Public Service awarded the LMP with a Disaster Recovery Project Grant from the UNC Disaster Relief Fund at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in the amount of \$4,600 to support disaster recovery efforts in Ocracoke, NC. The funds will be used to finish repairs to the Deepwater Theatre, a community space of the non-profit organization Ocracoke Alive, sponsor of the island's annual Festival Latino. The theatre was damaged during Hurricane Dorian in 2019. Ocracoke Alive is an LMP community partner participating in the new LTAM 360 “Heritage and Migration in NC” class this spring, and will host UNC students learning about the island’s Mexican history.

Support the Latino Migration Project

Your donation will enrich our students' experiences, advance our faculty's research and scholarship, and make NC communities better places for everyone. Your gift can make a difference!

Donate online at <https://migration.unc.edu/donate/>

Telephone support at 919 962-5453

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The Latino Migration Project is a collaborative program of the Institute for the Study of the Americas and the Center for Global Initiatives at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill



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