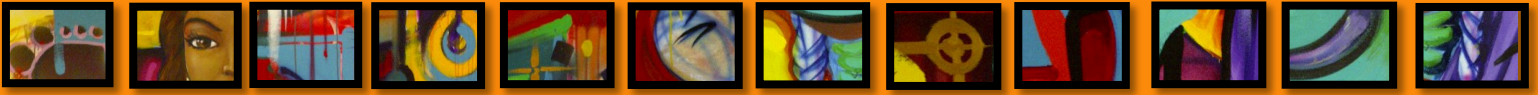




# Voz Latina

April 2014

Volume: 1 | Issue: 3



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## Mes Latino 2014 Recap

February 28 – March 21

This year the Latino Cultural Center celebrated MIT Mes Latino by centering the festivities around one common theme: *"Celebrating MIT: Nuestras Raíces Unidas / Celebrating MIT: Our United Roots"*. The LCC commenced the Mes Latino celebrations by hosting *¡Gala Sabrosura!*, a semi-formal dance party. A night of dancing, photobooth fun, and good food made this event unforgettable. Over a dozen events were held by the different LCC affiliated organizations. Events included the Association of Puerto Rican Students (APR) Karaoke Night, La Union Chicano por Aztlán (LUChA) Alumni Symposium, and Mujeres Latina's No-Mess, De-Stress: Smoothies and Salsa. Mes Latino culminated in Festival de Las Americas, where all of the organizations got together to promote Latino culture and food. Posters on Latina Women in Academia, Latino Literature, MIT Latino Leaders, and Latino Revolutionaries were displayed. Overall, MIT Mes Latino proved to be a successful event, uniting Latinos across MIT and establishing connections between students, staff, faculty, and alumni!



Celebrando MIT:  
Nuestras Raíces Unidas

Celebrating MIT:  
Our United Roots

FEB. 28-MAR 21

"Our mission is to promote and support Latino culture at MIT by providing a bridge between Latino organizations in order to build a stronger community within the institute."



Brought to you by: Latino Cultural Center, Mujeres Latinas, Casino Rueda, LUChA, MAES, APR and SHPE!



# Venezuela: Students Fight For Freedom

By Anonymous Submission

What is happening in Venezuela in a case of mass civil disobedience driven by the unsupportable violence and scarcity brought on by a regime that has seduced a nation for over 15 years. What makes this uprising different from others is that the government has mandated a media boycott, and the uprising was initiated by university students.

Imagine living in a place where personal safety does not exist. Imagine not being able to have a beer with friends or pick up a midnight burrito after leaving the lab. The price for working late into the night on campus or burning the midnight oil at the library is not exhaustion and good marks, but the forfeit our lives. Students everywhere keep irregular hours, and in Venezuela they are often targets of attack.

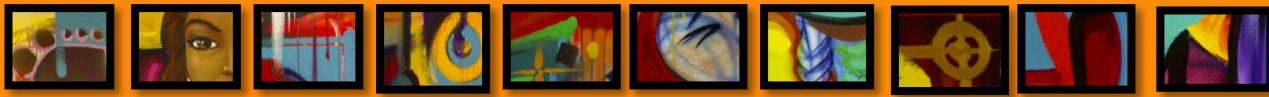
I could go on discussing the events but providing a bit of context may be good. Over the past 15 years Venezuela has seen a shift in politics, population, and living conditions. The shift has been gradual. Politically, Venezuela shifted from a two party political system homologous to a democratic and conservative duality, into a self described socialist-nationalist group and an opposing group. An aspect of the population shift is emigration, and regarding living conditions the recurrent themes are challenges in access to food, medicine, and personal safety. I am over simplifying it. The issues are complex.

The political atmosphere created by this socialist-nationalist group and the opposition is highly polarized and unequally volatile. The self proclaimed socialist group in power has to their command the armed forces, the civil forces like the police, and an urban militia known as the 'colectivos' armed with weapons riding on motorbikes, terrorizing, raping, and murdering anyone who is not in favor of the present regime. The opposition is comprised of people who are not in favor of the regime, and until now their most relied upon weapons were to keep quiet, be home before dusk, and to occasionally hold a sign at a public gathering to peacefully express discontent -this is changing. Early in February in the western state of Táchira at La Universidad de Los Andes (ULA) a student was badly beaten and raped, and it was student outrage which started the regional university protests immediately followed by other universities across Venezuela. The rules are not well defined: ULA protesters were arrested and sent to jail without a trial. When they arrived a surreal violent riot broke in the prison of Coro. Prisoners did not allow the students to enter the prison because according to them "jail is a place only for criminals not students". The students were detained elsewhere. In retaliation for their insurrection prisoners are being deprived of visits. Prisoners have started a hunger strike. Nobody is willing to be quiet anymore.

The Venezuela of my parents was a place people left, but also a place to which they always returned. Yes, they'd leave the country and travel a bit, but the best place was always home. Over the past 15 years people have been leaving Venezuela and not going back. The Venezuelan diaspora is comprised of a blend of people from the opposition and skilled laborers who simply found the living conditions in Venezuela unacceptable, and who had the means to leave. This has resulted in a massive brain drain in Venezuela. According to El Universal paper, the number of Venezuelans living abroad climbed from 378,000 to 521,000 between years 2005 and 2010 (in the 80's only 33,000 Venezuelans lived in the US). Lack of opportunities for growth and personal security were the two most cited reasons behind the departures. In spite of the mass exodus of those who are in dissent, the citizenry in place remains divided. There are people in favor of the socialist regime and there are people in favor of change. The numbers on this dichotomy are reported to be roughly 50%: half of the nation is in favor of the regime, half of the nation is against it (... personally, I take all statistics coming from Venezuela with a salt lick. If a nation cannot effectively work out the basics like securing and distributing food and medicine to the population, how much time and effort can they invest into accurate data gathering and analysis? Makes me wonder about the validity of the number of deaths reported each year and under reporting).

The living conditions are such that basic goods (oil, corn flour for arepas, milk, cheese, toilet paper, sanitary napkins, tampons, etc.) and medicine are very difficult to find, and when they are available they are subject to strict ration. Further, other basic comforts like access to running water and electricity are also subject to ration, because the state has not invested in the infrastructure to support urban growth resulting from the growing rural-to-urban migrations (I have not read about this, but my mom was in Caracas last summer and different parishes -or districts received flowing water on different days, but not every day). Can you imagine only being able to bathe or wash every other day when water is set to be distributed in Cambridge? Can you imagine yourself creating a water storage for days when there is no access to running water?!

Continued on Page 3



## Venezuela: Students Fight For Freedom (Con't)

Rather than addressing the issues brought up to you in this very informal review, President Maduro has chosen to prohibit the broadcasting of any national, current event news reports. The state can do this because the state owns the transmission signals (not the actual television or radio stations). TV channels and radio stations can broadcast the message the state wishes to impart, and entertainment like cartoons, cooking shows, movies, and soap operas, but no news -many journalist have resigned in consequence. Newspapers are not being provided currency (by the state) with which to import paper to print news. Further, at the peak of student demonstrations in early February, even social media -on which students relied to share comments, photos, and videos about what was happening- was being blacked out. The state also owns the largest internet provider, and the western state of Táchira was left without internet in early February to prevent the diffusion of information among protesters and out of the state. Once common social media was altered, protesters began to rely on an app called Zello which turns smart phones into a sort of group walkie-talkie. This is an important tool which allows protesting groups to warn other communities of 'colectivos' attacks and national guard support for the 'colectivos', or domiciliary 'allanamientos' (breaking and entering by police or state service -search without a warrant), so community members can seek refuge and protesters can be ready to retreat or stay in place. It is very difficult for me to imagine this developing nation's version of Orwellian-Huxleyan dystopia blend as being my Venezuela.

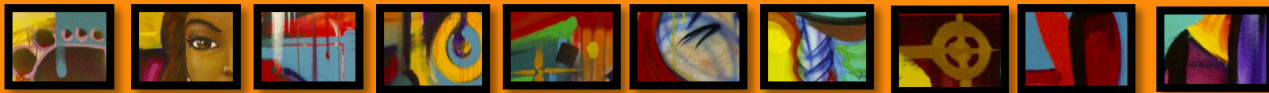
The universal declaration of human rights comprises 30 articles of which at least eleven are presently being violated in Venezuela.

Article 3	Right to Life, Liberty, and Personal Security
Article 5	Freedom from Torture and Degrading Treatment
Article 6	Right to Recognition as a Person before the Law
Article 9	Freedom from Arbitrary Arrest and Exile
Article 10	Right to Fair Public Hearing
Article 11	Right to be Considered Innocent until Proven Guilty
Article 17	Right to Own Property
Article 20	Right of Peaceful Assembly and Association
Article 21	Right to Participate in Government and in Free Elections
Article 25	Right to Adequate Living Standard
Article 26	Right to Education

All this being acknowledged, there is one important element that repeats itself throughout Latin American history and which brings hope: that is university students and the youth of the nation in general have been the voice of justice and the catalyst of social change since our independence (from Spain/Portugal). It was Venezuelan seminary students and young officials who started the independence movement that freed Panama, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia from Spanish rule. It is students with vision, passion, and unyielding valor who drive change. Perhaps history, as it often does, will repeat itself.

### *Comments from the Editors*

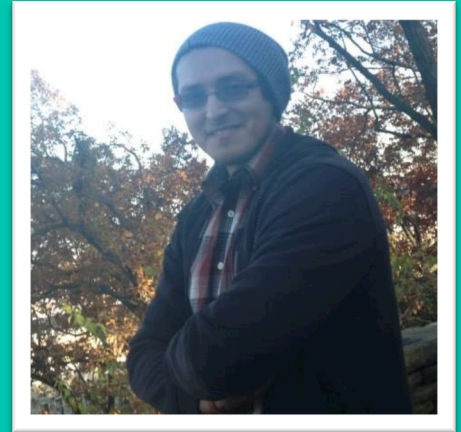
To say that the situation in Venezuela is disheartening is an understatement; "shocking" is a bit more appropriate, but still lacks the power to convey the frustration, the anger, and the inspirational fortitude felt by all those who are affected. The previous piece was anonymously submitted and provides a good glimpse into just what is happening in Venezuela. It is important, however, to realize that, though the Venezuelan government is trying hard to maintain a media blackout, there is a bank of information available to better inform oneself about the current situation. Websites such as [reuters.com](http://reuters.com) and [nytimes.com](http://nytimes.com) provide telling articles (The New York Times even contains op-eds written by Nicolas Maduro, the president of Venezuela, and Leopoldo Lopez, a major opposition leader currently imprisoned), and these are just two of many. It is possible to get informed, to form an opinion. We here at *Voz Latino* ask our readers: What do you make of the situation in Venezuela? What do you think we can do as Latinos/Latinas in Boston to show support for Venezuelans at home and abroad? We look forward to your responses and hope for an enlightened and fruitful discussion.



## ¡LATIN@ Spotlight! ¡Hugo Malpica!

This issue of Voz Latina shines its spotlight on Course 6-1 sophomore Hugo Malpica. Hugo is a Los Angeles native and very proud of his heritage. He hopes to help out his community back home in some way, "whether it be donating to high schools or implementing programs that have to do with Electrical Engineering or other STEM fields."

Here at MIT, Hugo is very involved in the Latino community. As Vice-President of LUCHA, Hugo is poised for presidency in the near future. On where he sees LUCHA headed, he says, "I would definitely like to see LUCHA as a place where people are more aware of what's out there ... aware of who they are." Along with being the current Vice-President of LUCHA, Hugo is also CPW/REX Chair for Spanish House and a member of MAES, continually shows his support by attending other LCC events.



When asked about his favorite moment at MIT, he responded "I think it's actually been moving in and living in my current dorm. The people there are just wonderful and I wouldn't trade it for anything in the world. If I had to live somewhere else I don't think that I would be as happy as I am here."

CPW  
Campus  
review  
Weekend

At the  
Latino Cultural Center

April 10 - 13

Please join us this CPW in the LCC  
to help welcome prefrosh and show them a  
little bit about *nuestra cultura* and what it  
means to be Latin@ at MIT.

Mix and Mingle w/Latinos - 4/10 - 6:30 PM

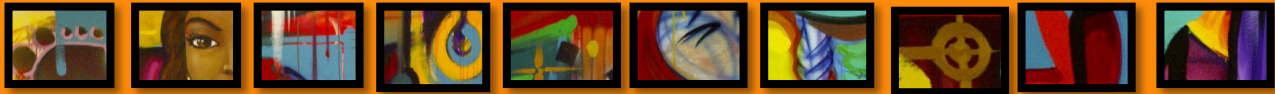
Life of a Luchador w/LUCHA - 4/11 - 5:45 PM

BBQ and Wings w/SHPE - 4/11 - 2:00 PM

Festival de las Piñatas w/Mujeres - 4/12 - 12:30 PM

CPW Dinner w/APR - 4/12 - 7:30 PM





## Affiliated Organizations

- [APR](#)
- [Casino Rueda](#)
- [LUChA](#)
- [MAES](#)
- Mujeres Latinas
- [SHPE](#)

## For More Information, Contact Us:

Latino Cultural Center:  
[lcc-exec@mit.edu](mailto:lcc-exec@mit.edu)

Newsletter Administrators:  
[vozlatina-admin@mit.edu](mailto:vozlatina-admin@mit.edu)

LCC Website:  
[latino.mit.edu](http://latino.mit.edu)

## ¿Qué Pasa, Calabaza?!

*Qué Pasa, Calabaza* serves as *Voz Latina's* "head's up" section. In *Qué Pasa* you will find a glimpse into the upcoming month of Latino events at MIT. If you have any questions about any of the events feel free to contact the organization through their website (links provided on the left).

### General Events

- Multicultural Awards Banquet May 13
- Mix and Mingle with Latinos @ MIT CPW - May 10

### APR

- CPW Dinner April 12

### Casino Rueda

- Workshop April 27
- Workshop May 5/3

### LUChA

- ECCSF @ Yale April 4 - 6
- CPW Special GBM April 11
- GBM April 25
- Cinco de Mayo BBG May 3
- ChicanoGrad May 3
- GBM May 9

### MAES

- Science Extravaganza April 5
- MAES/SWE Mixer April 7
- GBM April 18
- Elections GBM May 2
- Despedidas y Encuentros May 16

### Mujeres Latinas

- CPW Festival de Las Piñatas April 12
- Mujeres Cookout! April 27
- Mother's Day Card Making May 8
- Elections GBM May 11

### SHPE

- CPW BBQ & Wings w/ SHPE April 11
- GBM April 16
- Finger Foods April
- GBM May 7
- End-of-the-Year Banquet May 15

## Literature For Your Soul

Literature For Your Soul provides a chance to diverge from the thoroughly technical aspects of MIT life and experience some sort of challenging, thought-provoking, humorous, or touching work of art created by students.

This month's Literature for Your Soul brings to you a most intriguing mathematical theorem written and published by our very own Willy Vasquez '15. This imaginative trick for multiplying numbers by twelve is brought to you in a proof after more than half a decade of ponderings. You will find yourself immersed in the complexity of a method that will make you smile with wonderment and disbelief.

Check out the proof, "On Multiplying by 12: A Half Decade Theorem Finally Proven", [here](#) under the Special Features section for April's Issue.

## Check This Out!

MIT Admissions Blogger Ana Vasquez '15 summed up her excitement for the LCC and anticipation for MIT Mes Latino in her most recent blog post "[Latino Cultural Center](#)". A compelling read worth your time complete with pictures and word-pictures, you won't regret *Checking This Out!*

CHICANO  
GRADUATION  
CEREMONY 2014

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