Growing up in a bicultural and bilingual household, Professor Deborah Pacini-Hernandez stands out as the Director for Latino Studies.

Pacini's roots sprout in the convergence of a Latin American and Anglo upbringing. After World War II, Pacini's father moved from Colombia to learn English in the United States where he met her mother, whom at the time was a student at the University of Michigan. At the age of three, Pacini and her family moved back to Colombia until she turned eleven. After completing high school in the States and college at the University of Wisconsin, Pacini moved back to Colombia for five years. It was during this time that she developed an interest in native Colombian cultures which prompted her to do her Masters in Anthropology at Cornell University.

At the suggestion of her academic advisor at Cornell who said that because she was Colombian, Pacini should focus on a topic outside of that realm; Pacini chose Caribbean music. This led her to write her dissertation on Bachata music from the Dominican Republic. Since then, Pacini has explored other topics regarding Latin American music, from the prevalence of Rock music in Argentina and Cuba to the influence of Dominicans on Reggaeton.

Pacini received tenure at the University of Florida at Gainesville where her involvement in Latino Studies began to flourish. There, Pacini developed a Latino Studies course and helped students organize for the foundation of a Latino Center. Pacini eventually moved up North where her connection to Latino Studies strengthened thanks to the diversity of Latin American immigrants in the region.

At the time when Pacini joined the Tufts community, two other Latino faculty were also appointed. Soon, the need for more Latino Studies programming at Tufts became a topic of discussion among Latino students who wanted more courses that reflected their own experiences. After a two year collaboration of students and faculty, an interdisciplinary Latino Studies minor was created, making Tufts the first private institution to offer such a program in the New England area.

In thinking about the need for a Latino Studies minor at Tufts, Pacini stresses that the program is not only for Latino students but for all students, especially considering the growing importance of Latinos in the United States. As for the future of Latino Studies, Pacini would like to see more tenured Latino faculty teaching Latino Studies who can possibly serve as mentors to Latino students. A diverse range of permanent and predictable set of courses would aid in making the program more "robust and coherent", according to Pacini. Although for this to happen, Pacini believes that there needs to be outreach, from more programming on campus that focuses on issues beyond immigration, which Pacini believes only reinforces the perception of Latinos as newcomers and foreigners, to more recruitment of Latino students from the greater Boston area.

With Pacini as director, Latino Studies has nowhere to go but up!
Freshmen Juan Pimentel and Rafael Artiles come from two different places, Boston and New Rochelle, NY, respectively. So I asked them, "Why Tufts?" Juan decided to stay close to home, and picked Tufts because of its similar rigorous academic curriculum as his private high school in West Roxbury, The Roxbury Latin School. He also emphasized his desire to go to a smaller institution, "not anything humongous". Rafael made his decision to enroll at Tufts after his Telescope visit where he had made friends with whom he kept in touch throughout the summer. Upperclassmen and core members of the Latino Men's Group (LMG) Joe Rivera ('07), Glenn Garcia ('09) and Joel Alcón ('09) created the atmosphere of comfort and friendliness that hooked him. Rafael's transition from his public high school to Tufts came as a "shock" because he wasn't used to working so hard. Overall, both find the academics to be challenging but not necessarily cut-throat.

Now that they have been here on campus for a year, they are quite busy and involved in very similar, but different ways. Juan works in the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies Department. Rafael joined Tufts Literacy Corps because it was a continuance and reminder of his past involvement volunteering for the Boys & Girls Club in high school.

Juan and Rafael's lives overlap in many aspects. Both plan to major in Economics (but Juan plans to minor in Entrepreneurial Leadership and Rafael wants a history minor), performed in this year's ALAS Culture Show in Giselle Roig's ('07) merengue performance, and host a radio show on Tufts' WFMO. The radio show features two hours of all the latest music hits, the first hour consisting of mostly reggaeton and the final hour combining merengue, merengue típico, and bachata. Juan comments, "[I'm] proud we put on the hottest stuff out there!" Rafael gives the credit for the show to Juan since he did the actual WMFO training. Juan is the DJ, having also acted as disc jockey for the after party comfortable on campus," he says. Juan, with relatively similar sentiments about the organization, frequents meetings often. Additionally, he hosted the Latino Poetry Night in Alumnae Lounge during Latino Heritage Month his fall semester. Rafael expressed that he wanted ALAS to continue to progress as a "safety net". Juan follows with a comment, "I second that one. More members. That would be progress". And the same goes for the Latino Mens Group (LMG).

LMG is another organization to which Rafael and Juan have devoted their time. Some LMG activities included: Dinner at Ana's Taqueria, A Film Series, Making home-cooked meals at La Casa, Competing in a LMG Fantasy Baseball online group (apparently, Ruben does a lot of trash talking!), and an April Open House presentation. Juan and Rafael attend the LMG collaborative dinner with the Black Men's Group, an event that occurred directly following the racially-charged events on campus in December. The two noted good conversation about those campus issues. There was also the Domino Tournament in March. Although it did not turn out to be competitive, due to the large amount of people needing to leave the Wednesday night event, the domino tournament offered delicious Cuban food and a time for leisure.

Because of their involvement in the Latino community, Rafael and Juan have been able to connect on all these levels.
Latino Peer Advisors 2007-2008

Raquel Rios '10
Florida
Nicaraguan

Jennifer Barinas '09
Massachusetts
Dominican

Jenna Robey '10
Missouri
African American

Jennifer Reyes '08
Massachusetts
Dominican

Apryl Rosas '10
Texas
Mexican

Juan Pimentel '10
Massachusetts
Dominican

Ariana Matias '10
Massachusetts
Puerto Rican

Rafael Artiles '10
New York
Dominican

Jose Alfaro '08
California
Nicaraguan

Laura Rivera '08
New York
Puerto Rican

Daymiris Gell '10
New Jersey
Dominican

Naiara Suoto '10
Massachusetts
Brazilian

Latino Peer Advisors 2007-2008

Association of Latin American Students
2007-2008 E-Board

President
Vanessa Rojo '08
California
Mexican

Vice President
Jennifer Barinas '09
New York
Dominican

Secretary
Julissa Taveras '08
New York
Dominican

Treasurer
Rafael Artiles '10
New York
Dominican

Public Relations
Joel Alcon '09
New York
Dominican

Community Rep
Edna Gonzalez '10
New York
Dominican

Historian
Janyll Canals '08
New York
Dominican

La Casa 2007-2008

Daniel Brasil Becker '08
House Manager
Massachusetts
Brazilian

Joel Aclón '09
Massachusetts
Dominican

Jennifer Barinas '09
New York
Dominican

Edna Gonzalez '10
New York
Dominican

Raquel Rios '10
Florida
Nicaraguan

Jenna Robey '10
Missouri
African American

Geoanna M Bautista '09
New York
Filipino

Apryl Rosas '10
Texas
Mexican

Martin Rosas '09
Texas
Mexican
I wish that I had taken more advantage of the many internship and traveling opportunities. Tufts really does make these things easy, just make sure you get your stuff in on time!!

-Monica Clavijo

I am a proud Latino. I was provided with support and was given leadership opportunities. I have matured, learned how to organize events and deal with bureaucracy, and worldly insight!

-Nick Ojeda

The Latino Center is the place where I probably made my closest friends from Tufts. There were many long nights spent in there in which, while yes we were supposed to be doing homework, instead we were cracking up about how "cracked out we were" thanks to all the red bull we had drank. And everyone knows that free printing was most definitely a plus! But honestly, the Latino Center has been key to my undergraduate career. It is definitely where I spent a great portion of my nights starting sophomore year all the way up to my graduation.

-Joseph Rivera

As a Latino Peer Advisor I really learned the value of giving back. It is so important to help out in any way that you can, and it was a really rewarding experience.

- Virna Roa
My favorite classes were Music, Blackness and Caribbean Latinos (Sociology/Anthropology) and American Realism (English).
- Giselle Roig

I would like to be remembered as the person who tried to further promote the Latin culture among the Tufts community.
- Mayeluz Verdecia

I love everything, every mistake I made, everything.
- Jose Condor

“¡El que Persevera alcanza!” Study hard and enjoy your college years because they don’t come back!
- Yissy Carolina Pérez Hilario

The Latino Center was great – I worked there all 4 years, so I was able to get involved with the publication of NOTICIAS, all the events during Latino Heritage Month, and get to know the Center’s director, Rubén! I also used the Latino Center late at night to do work – it soon became a hot spot for studying!
- Lourdes Laguna
Enjoy your undergraduate years and learn to be a people person.  

- Jose Condor

Go abroad your junior year! If there isn’t a Tufts program that fits your interest, find one that does and make it happen!  

- Giselle Roig

Here at Tufts you will have a vast amount of opportunity to explore virtually anything and rather than sitting in your room talking about how bad the social life may or may not be, or rather than sitting in your room missing your family, your significant other, or just plain sitting in your room…get out there. Try things, explore, learn. That’s what you’re here for. You’re only here for four years and when they say it goes by fast, they didn’t tell you just how fast it does go by so don’t sit around your dorm room and just let your college years pass you by. You make what you want out of Tufts.  

- Joseph Rivera

Try everything your first year. Go to office hours – it makes you stand out as a student and you receive the help that you might not necessarily need, but that can always be helpful.  

- Lourdes Laguna

Keep your eyes and ears open when it comes to programs/grants that career services and other groups may offer. It is hard to keep up with everything that is going on with all the different groups and organizations but it is worth making an effort. Also, if you have a plan/goal — inform yourself, ask questions, talk to people to see how you can materialize that vision. Never, ever, give up on a project before starting. It is very unfortunate to find out senior year that the resources were there all along and you just did not know about it.  

- Mayeluz Verdecia

Branch out! This is your opportunity to try things you would never think of. Step out of you box! Go abroad, join random clubs, attend meetings! Participate- this is YOUR college career, so make the most of it!  

- Monica Clavijo

Take as many classes as possible your first two years so you can be on cruise control in your last years. Trust me, it makes a big difference, don’t drop puny classes, just weather it out, you will be grateful in the end when you don't have to shop for credits, write 7 million papers and the same time, and not be able to enjoy the company of your friends in your last days. STUDY ABROAD, IT WILL BE ONE OF THE MOST REWARDING EXPERIENCES EVER!  

- Nick Ojeda

Try to find a balance between setting goals for yourself while still leaving yourself some flexibility. Some people just jump into a certain plan and then when it is too late, they find out that it is not meant for them. You don’t have to choose your whole career path as a freshman!!  

- Virna Roa

Study hard and enjoy your college years because they don’t’ come back!  

- Yissy Carolina Pérez Hilario
Awards

Lourdes Laguna
Dean’s Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Tufts Community

Johana Oviedo
Audrey Butvay Gruss Science Award

Mayeluz Verdecia
Constantine Ghikas Prize in Romance Languages

'07 Majors

International Relations- 24
Economics- 10
Child Development- 6
English- 6
Philosophy- 5
Political Science- 5
Biopsychology- 4
Biology- 3
History- 3
Psychology- 3
Art History- 2
Electrical Engineering- 2
French- 2

Mechanical Engineering- 2
Spanish- 2
American Studies- 1
Anthropology- 1
Archaeology- 1
Architectural Studies- 1
Civil Engineering- 1
Clinical Psychology- 1
Computer Engineering- 1
Environmental Studies- 1
Peace and Justice Studies- 1
Quantitative Economics- 1
Sociology- 1
Tufts Latino alumni organized the second alumni weekend in New York City on March 24. Over thirty alumni came together to attend the off-Broadway musical, *In the Heights*, at the 37 Arts Theater. *In the Heights* focuses on the lives of the residents of a neighborhood in New York City’s Washington Heights. Originally written by Lin-Manuel Miranda while he was a sophomore at Wesleyan University, *In the Heights* features original music and fantastic dancing. The story centers around the character Nina who is a student at Stanford University and home for the break. Nina, of Puerto Rican descent, decides to leave Stanford for financial reasons and enroll in a local college. Her family and her community are naturally disturbed by her decision. The alumni were definitely able to relate to both the storyline as well as the neighborhood residents. After the play the group continued on to the Matador restaurant for tapas and sangria. It was a great opportunity for the alumni to catch up with each other. A good time was had by all!

As a follow-up to the alumni weekend, two of the organizers, Shioban Torres ’04 and Gabriela Calderon ’05 are currently in the process of filing papers with the alumni office to create the first Tufts Latino Alumni Association. An alumni association will facilitate an alumni network and hopefully add a strong voice in support of the Latino community at Tufts. Stay tuned for more information on the Tufts Latino Alumni Association.
Mujeres
An Interview

By Lourdes Laguna '07

Mercy Imahiyerobo '09, Raquel Rios '10 and Jenna Robey '10 are the three motivated women that have taken the initiative to re-activate the women's group called Mujeres. Without placing emphasis on leadership roles, like the designation of a president or any other defined positions, Mujeres plans to promote an atmosphere of member engagement and member ownership. Mercy, Raquel and Jenna, however, are the core initiators. They are looking to bring this organization to full bloom next fall with some careful and strategic planning before opening it up for ownership. All the planning will compensate for their late start this year. Altogether, the three women share values of strength, solidarity and diversity, all of which will be incorporated into the revised mission of the group.

Two out of three women of this core leadership, Mercy and Jenna, are not Latina. "I know where people think I belong, but I don't," said Mercy. Noting the cultural variances explains Mujeres' commitment to diversity that the organization seeks to embody as they grow. Mujeres hopes to reach out to female students from all types of backgrounds interested in the Latina culture and those who are looking for a community to fit in. Mujeres hopes to become more diverse and more inclusive. The organization will provide the forum for women to build solidarity and personal growth. Mercy points out that Jenna and Raquel have taught her about her own character and believes that this organization will do the same for others.

Women Have Curves" as an ice-breaker event. The 2002 drama features America Ferrera, current Latina TV star on ABC's Ugly Betty. They hope the movie will spur discussions on body image, considering that Ferrera's character promotes the idea that Latina women are not shaped like all other females.

Mujeres also plans to help in the recruitment of the Class of 2011, by offering their services as hosts for Telescope and getting involved in the April Open House forum with Latino Men's Group, ALAS and Black Men's Group. This event will be held in the Remis Sculpture Court and will feature a discussion and picture slide show of these organizations' role on campus and their efforts to enliven the campus with diversity. Mujeres also plans to continue building relations with LMG, but not too soon. The organization does not want to be perceived as, "LMG and their women," but instead, would like to establish their own identity first. Once established, Mujeres will join forces with their male counterparts to hold discussions and integrate the two groups. Next year, Mujeres will seek to become a recognized and funded organization on campus.

Mercy Imahiyerobo is a Nigerian sophomore from Boston, Massachusetts who majors in International Relations and Spanish. Jenna Robey is half African-American, half-Caucasian freshman from St. Louis, Missouri who will be living in La Casa next year. She participates on Tufts Varsity Women's Softball team. Robey plans to major in International Relations & Community Health.

Two out of three women of this core leadership, Mercy and Jenna, are not Latina. "I know where people think I belong, but I don't," said Mercy. Noting the cultural variances explains Mujeres' commitment to diversity that the organization seeks to embody as they grow. Mujeres hopes to reach out to female students from all types of backgrounds interested in the Latina culture and those who are looking for a community to fit in. Mujeres hopes to become more diverse and more inclusive. The organization will provide the forum for women to build solidarity and personal growth. Mercy points out that Jenna and Raquel have taught her about her own character and believes that this organization will do the same for others. Mujeres, who has found her comfort zone within the Latino community, perceives Mujeres as a, "sorority minus the sorority stuff." Raquel adds that Mujeres is a, "means by which unique people can showcase their strengths." The three women expressed many times that Mujeres is not about exclusivity nor male-bashing, but instead, a female group of multi-
ALAS 3rd Annual Latino Culture Show

Quimbara

Afro-Latino Fusion

Capoeira

Cantando

Playing beats of Plena & Candombe

Voices of Liberation

La Salsa

La Tortura

Desobedientes

Cantando

Merengue

Co-Host Virna Roa

Lolly Berger Poetry

Flamenco

Desobedientes

Reception

Cohen Auditorium

Gena Davis

Merengue
Latino Alumni Annual Event
NYC
March 24th
2007

Under the Sea
ALAS Gala 2007
...the lifetime diabetes risk for Latina women is **52.5%**?

...by the year 2040, Latinos will comprise **51 percent** of the population of California?

...in 1950 Puerto Rican actor **José Ferrer** became the first U.S. Hispanic to win the **Academy Award** for best actor, for his starring role in *Cyrano De Bergerac*?

...Mexican Hollywood directors **Guillermo del Toro** (*Pan’s Labyrinth*), **Alfonso Cuaron** (*Children of Men*) and **Alejandro Gonzalez Iñarritu** (*Babel*) are all friends?

...in 1995 salsa singer **Celia Cruz** became the first Hispanic pop singer to be awarded the **National Medal for the Arts**?

...in the **2005 Census** there were 107 Hispanic males to every 100 Hispanic females, which is in sharp contrast to the overall population which had 97 males to every 100 females?