Focus on Faculty: Noe Montez

By Apryl Rosas ‘11

Noe Montez is the newest addition to the Tufts Department of Drama and Dance. He will be teaching a new course in the fall, Latino Theatre and Film.

Can you please tell us a little bit about your background?

I was born and raised in Fort Worth, Texas, where I lived until I was eighteen. My grandfather was a minister in Houston who actively advocated for Chicano rights in the 60s and 70s, and my parents were active volunteers for the National Council of La Raza, so I was brought up in a very politically active home. After high school though, I knew that I wanted a change of pace from big-city life in Texas so I attended Grinnell College in Iowa. I had several wonderful mentors who inspired me, made me want to pursue academia, and taught me how to be a good professor. I graduated in 2003 and then jumped straight into a Ph.D. program in Theatre History, Theory and Literature at Indiana University. While there, I took some wonderful courses in Latin American Studies as well as Theatre and I finished a Ph.D. in 2009.

For the past two years I’ve served as the Dramaturg for the Cleveland Play House. In this position, I work with actors, directors and designers from concept meetings to opening night by providing historical context, audience education programs, and serving as an in-house critic. I also read through several dozen scripts annually. I’ve also actively directed and performed for several years, focusing specifically on new play development and devised work.

How did you get into the arts? What/who inspired you?

I didn’t see my first play until I got to college. My family never would’ve thought to see a play, and they just weren’t part of my experience. When I got to Grinnell, I was invited to see a show that a few friends were in. It was Brecht’s Private Life of the Master Race, and at the end of the show, the audience was invited to tear down the chain-link fence that separated them from the performers and rush the stage in an act of political protest. That moment knocked my socks off. I guess that I had imagined all theatre to be Cats, but this was a moment that was politically vital and socially aware, and I didn’t realize that theatre could work that way. From that moment I was hooked. I’ve always wanted to write and teach about Latino/Latin American politics and culture, and performance has become the medium that I use to examine society.

Is there anything that you are looking forward to bringing to the Drama department or Tufts, in general?

First and foremost I hope that I can encourage students who might not have considered taking drama courses to come in and take something in the department. I want to meet with Latino student organizations and find ways to get politically or socially minded students to find ways to participate in the classroom and in the rehearsal process. Some of the

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shows that I’m most interested in directing involve DJ’s spinning turntables, professional wrestling, and some pretty cool opportunities for inventive choreography. I am also interested in bringing a Latin American perspective to the department. Latino Theatre is an exciting field right now. There are several dozen wonderful playwrights who are writing about their heritage and experiences in visually and vocally innovative ways, and I look forward to exploring them. In the next few years, I’ll also probably teach a Sport as Performance course, which will speak to the ways that sporting events contribute to world culture, and a course on American Theatre in the 21st Century, that will draw on my recent experiences working in the professional theatre. I want to give students a chance to see and read some of the very best work that theatre artists are producing on and off Broadway stages right now.

Can you tell us a little bit about your upcoming class? For over 50 years now, Latinos have been creating theatre that speaks to their cultural heritage and hopes for the future. The performances have varied from politically minded-protestors creating short protest pieces in the backs of pickup trucks to Tony Award winning musicals and Pulitzer Prize winning plays. This course will examine the continued emergence of Latino Theatre in the United States and how this theatre attempts (sometimes unsuccessfully) to capture the multiple identities of Latinos in this nation. Representative works by Latino playwrights, performance artists, and filmmakers will be discussed in light of issues such as labor and immigration, gender and sexuality, generation gaps in Latino culture, hybridized identities, interculturalism, and the United States' relationship with Latin American nations.

The Latino Center would like to welcome Noe Montez to Tufts!

LATINO ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BY CLARISSA RIVAS ’12

What is the purpose of the Latino Alumni Association (LAATU)?
Joel A: LAATU coordinates events for Latino alumni from Tufts. The aim is to promote professional networking, act as a support group for Latino alumni, and collaborate with the Latino Center.

As of right now, do you have anything (i.e. upcoming events) planned for the LAATU?
Joel A: Our last event was to support the Diversity Career Networking-Night, which was put together by Career Services, the Tufts Alumni Association, the Latino, Africana, and Asian American Centers. Right now, we are planning future events and putting together content for our Facebook page. We are still in the planning stages but we will let you know as soon we have more information.

What is your goal/vision for the LAATU? What do you want to see happen?
Joel A: Personally, I'd love to see LAATU work closely with the Latino Center. There is a lot of room for collaboration there. More importantly, I'd like LAATU to help alumni stay in touch. It would be great to, for example, to visit a new town and know that there is another Tufts Latino alumnus there. Having enough people stay in touch with each other may even help us sponsor networking nights and other gatherings in different cities! That would be awesome! The success of LAATU is dependent on the amount of alumni that stay involved. If you're graduating this year, shoot us an email at latinoalumniassociation@gmail.com.
### Latino Studies Courses-Fall 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course #</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Professor</th>
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<tr>
<td>ANTH17</td>
<td>Latino Migration, Music, and Identity</td>
<td>Pacini-Hernandez</td>
<td>J+TR</td>
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<td>ANTH183</td>
<td>Urban Borderlands</td>
<td>Pacini-Hernandez</td>
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<td>Race In America</td>
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<td>Innovative Social Enterprises</td>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>6+T</td>
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<td>Family, Nation, Place</td>
<td>Wu</td>
<td>T: 4:30-7:15</td>
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<td>Social Policies for Children and Families</td>
<td>Jacobs</td>
<td>6+T</td>
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<td>Montez</td>
<td>K+MW</td>
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<td>Hardman</td>
<td>E+MW</td>
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<td>12+W</td>
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<td>Elementary/Intermediate Portuguese</td>
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The Ellen C. Myers Memorial Prize: Apryl A. Rosas ‘11

The Constantine Ghikas Prize in Romance Languages: Jesenia A. Martinez ‘11

The Multicultural Service Award: James Mackenzie ‘11
Coming in to college I thought I knew exactly what I needed to succeed just as well as I did during my four years of high school. But when you first start college, there are so many obstacles in front of you and it’s the ones that you least expect that will hit you the hardest. I come from a very close-knit family which I have never left for more than a couple of weeks at a time. Leaving them was the best thing for me because it allowed me to grow and mature in ways that I wouldn’t have if I stayed close to home. However, it was sad to leave behind the support system on which I depended on for my whole life. I learned that trying hard and staying on top of your work isn’t the only thing you need to do to succeed. You also need to go see your professors and you need to ask for help when necessary. You can’t think that you are the only one with problems or struggles in class because chances are that most students are having trouble as well. To do well at Tufts it is important to seek out the resources that it offers; tutoring, counseling, professor office hours, etc. I had to swallow my pride and go ask for help. I had to make adjustments to get ahead. I had to get used to being by myself and learning to do things without my friends and family. Calling them really helped at first, but I couldn’t keep holding onto them as my crutch. With time, I eventually started to become independent. The best advice that I can give to incoming freshmen is that you have to learn to grab things for yourself rather than asking people to do things for you and to go get help whenever you need it. You can’t be afraid of your professors. Good luck, and welcome to the Class of 2015!

~ Luriel Ocampo, 2014
WHO’S WHO: 2011–2012

Jacqueline Ochoa ’14
McAllen, TX
Amanda Yepez ’12
New York, NY
Gabrielle Hernandez ’12
Los Angeles, CA
Leticia Benitez ’14
Boston, MA
Justin Pequeño ’12
McAllen, TX
Nicole Becker ’13
Brookline, MA
Shirley Fajardo ’14
Boston, MA
Kenia Estevez ’14
Lawrence, MA
Alma Rominger ’14
San Antonio, TX
Luriel Ocampo ’14
Chicago, IL
Kelvin Perez ’12
New York, NY
Ariela Westlake ’14
Petaluma, CA

La Casa Residents

Clarissa Rivas
House Manager
Mexican, 2012

Erin Piñon
Mexican/European, 2013

Lisnerva Nuez
Dominican, 2012

Ariel Ortiz
Puerto Rican, 2013

Yorman García
Dominican, 2012

Luriel Ocampo
Puerto Rican/Mexican, 2014

Amanda Yepez
Dominican/Puerto Rican, 2012

Alvaro Genie
Nicaraguan, 2014

MJ Murphy
Haitian, 2012

Astrid Fuentes
Mexican, 2014

Zoe Muñoz
Mexican, 2014

WHO’S WHO: 2011–2012

President
Gaby Gucho-Oliva

Historian
Kenia Estevez

Vice-President
Lisnerva Nuez

Public Relations
Zanyace Aguinaga
Alvaro Genie

Secretary
Luriel Ocampo

Treasurer
Yorman García

Community Representative
Zoe Muñoz

President
Gaby Gucho-Oliva

Historian
Kenia Estevez

Vice-President
Lisnerva Nuez

Public Relations
Zanyace Aguinaga
Alvaro Genie

Secretary
Luriel Ocampo

Treasurer
Yorman García

Community Representative
Zoe Muñoz
Latino Center Open House: Wednesday, August 31st, 3-5PM

Merienda at La Casa: Saturday, September 3rd, 7-10PM

Trip to a local community & dinner: Monday, September 5th, 10AM - 6PM

Latino Center Barbecue: Friday, September 9th, 4:30-6:30 PM

Thompson Island Freshman Retreat: Friday September 23rd-Saturday, September 24th

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Class of 2011

Females: 52
Males: 39

Ethnicity
- Cuban: 6
- Dominican: 7
- Mexican: 7
- Puerto Rican (Mainland): 6
- Puerto Rican (Island): 5
- Central/South American: 19
- Hispanic: 19

Majors
- International Relations: 19
- Psychology: 8
- Political Science: 6
- Child Development: 6
- English: 6
- Biology: 4
- Bio-Psychology: 4
- Clinical Psychology: 4
- Economics: 4
- Other: 28
Congratulations

Elisa Renata Arauz-DeStefano
Sylvia Avila
Melba Beltre
Diana Bermudez
Gabriela Brito
Elianny Camilo
Vladimir Cesar
Kim Chavez
Christie Diaz
Fernando Fiorentino
Yamila Irizarry-Gerould
Namibia Lebron-Torres
James Mackenzie

Krizia Malave
Jesenia Martinez
Jose Mena
Desiree Muller
Laura Ospina
Yashira Perez
Carolina Ramirez
Maria Rios
Carla Roberts-Toler
Apryl Rosas
Tomas Valdes
Desiree Walker
Alexandra Wynn
Alexis Wynn

Class of 2011
Love Tufts, even if it wasn't your first choice. It will love you back. Definitely take advantage of Boston. Make a bucket list and go to town. Literally. Make sure to eat LOTS of Boston Burger Company. Join Gospel Choir, no matter your background. It was easily one of my best experiences at Tufts! Most of all, ENJOY! Don't forget about the present by worrying about the future.

- Christie Diaz

"I encourage you to use your time at Tufts to expand your horizons! Meet new people, experience new things, and explore the unknown. Do not be afraid to be uncomfortable, leave your comfort zone with an open mind and watch as you grow in ways you had not previously expected. One Tufts experience that really pushed my boundaries was my study abroad experience in Madrid, Spain. I had always felt that I was an individual that could easily understand other people's perspectives, but it was not until I immersed myself in another culture that I realized I had a lot to learn. Being back at Tufts I realize that the things I learned from my abroad experience continue to enhance my everyday life back home."

-James Mackenzie

I think that it is important to realize that what works for someone else may not work for you. Don't give up when you think you've reached a roadblock. There are great resources at Tufts, so make sure to use them! Reach out if you need help. Also, please remember that there is a world outside of Tufts! I'm a strong believer in giving back to the community. Become an active participant in the local community!

-Apryl Rosas

"Do what you love! Everything else will fall into place. College is a time to explore your passions and yourself; so major in something that makes you excited to go to class, join organizations because you like doing the work, and make friends who you can laugh with even in the worst of times."

-Desiree Walker

First, you will hear this a lot, but it's actually true. Your time at Tufts will fly by so enjoy every second of it! Be open to new experiences and to learning new things. Don't be afraid to chose a major that you never expected to choose, and major in something based on your interests not based on what you feel you are expected to major in. Be open to new things outside of the classroom too, challenge yourself to be part of something you never thought you would join. I joined a sorority and it was one of the best decisions I made at Tufts! Go to as many lectures, concerts, shows, etc. Most of them are free and you will regret not taking advantage of all the opportunities Tufts offers to their students. Finally, don't be afraid to ask for help. There are so many people out there who want to make sure you succeed!

- Gabriela Brito

Love Tufts, even if it wasn't your first choice. It will love you back. Definitely take advantage of Boston. Make a bucket list and go to town. Literally. Make sure to eat LOTS of Boston Burger Company. Join Gospel Choir, no matter your background. It was easily one of my best experiences at Tufts! Most of all, ENJOY! Don't forget about the present by worrying about the future.

- Christie Diaz
Listen to your orientation leaders when it came to picking classes! They know which ones to stay away from, which ones shouldn’t be taken together, and which professors teach a class best! Also, focus on getting your distribution requirements completed as soon as possible. Your major might change halfway through college, you don’t want to end up having to take summer classes or a full credit load because you still need a math or a science come senior year! Always try to seek a balance! Neither academics nor a social life should take over your life. Try new things, take classes that aren’t in your “field,” connect with your peers and your professors. Remember, 4 years fly by! - Renata Arauz

"The only thing that matters, what I wish a graduating senior would have told me as an underclassman is this: don’t sweat the small stuff and be who you are. You will regret how much time and energy you spent stressing about small unimportant things when you could have been enjoying your time here at Tufts. That said, don’t leave things to the last minute, planning and effective time management skills will get you through college relatively unscathed. But the most important piece of advice I could offer is to be yourself. If you want to join a relatively obscure and unknown club, do it. Go to lectures you find interesting, attend meetings that fascinate you, and take classes that are relevant to your future goals. Don’t waste your time following the crowd, always wondering what your college experience might have been if you had created your own path instead of following another’s. Like Robert Frost immortalized in his famous poem, “The Road Not Taken”,

I shall be telling this with a sigh. Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I–I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

Have the courage to make your own way and believe me, it will make all the difference."

-Jesenia Martinez

"Make creating a foundation, a community, your first goal at Tufts. Build a support system that helps you excel. And lastly, whatever goals you set for yourself BE ASSERTIVE, do not be afraid to participate in class, to meet new people, or even to apply for an internship. Best of luck."

- Yashira Perez

"You are only in college once in your life. You should make it the best experience possible. At Tufts we are put in situations when we meet people from all walks of life and we can learn from them and teach them. One of the biggest regrets people have is not trying new things. Try something new, it is the best time to do it. Also, do not get caught up in the "Tufts Bubble." There is a life outside of this school, and people, and cultures. Take time to breathe and enjoy yourself. School is a part of your life, not necessarily your life. My other advice is to study abroad!! It is by far the best decision I made at Tufts. You come back appreciating Tufts, yourself, your family, and your true friends much more." - Laura Ospina
Did You Know...?

- The Latino population in the US is now 50.5 million, 16.3% of the population.
- 23% of those 17 and younger are Latino.
- 27% of major league ballplayers are Latino, down from 28.4% in 2009.
- The Latino population more than doubled in Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi, Maryland, and S. Dakota during the past decade.
- 49% of Hondurans, 48% of Guatemalans, 39% of Salvadorans, and 35% of Mexican Americans have no health insurance in the United States.
- Sara Ramirez of Grey’s Anatomy was born in Mazatlan, Mexico and moved to San Diego with her mother when she was 7 years old.
- 60% of Latinos voted for Democrats in the 2010 Congressional elections while 60% of whites voted Republican.

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Are you interested in submitting articles, pieces of art, or pictures for NOTICIAS? If so, contact: The Latino Center at ext. 7-3363 or email latinocenter@tufts.edu