

September 12, 2003

**TO: New Law Teachers (2003-04)**

**FR: The LatCrit Board, Officers and Co-Chairs**

[Steven Bender, Sumi Cho, Roberto Corrada, Jerome Culp, Nancy Ehrenreich, Angela Harris, Berta Hernandez-Truyol, Guadalupe Luna, Tayyab Mahmud, Pedro Malavet, Margaret Montoya, Celina Romany, Mary Romero, Francisco Valdes, Robert Westley]

**RE: Congratulations and Welcome: An Invitation to Upcoming Events for New Faculty!**

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Saludos and congratulations! On behalf of the LatCrit community, we welcome you to the legal professorate of the United States, as well as to the fluid community of critical scholars that has coalesced since its inception in 1995 under the rubric of “LatCrit” theory and praxis. Today, this LatCrit community is a diverse group of legal and non-legal scholars, including clinical professors, whose work collectively and individually promotes social justice coalitions and antisubordination activism in support of women, people of color, poor persons, sexual minorities, disabled people, immigrants and other traditionally marginalized groups in American society and beyond. Increasingly, the LatCrit community carries out a wide array of projects in pursuit of these aims, including two new events geared specifically toward new faculty, including yourself. We hope that after reading this welcome message and enclosed brochure, you will visit our website ([WWW.LATCRIT.ORG](http://WWW.LATCRIT.ORG)) or write to us ([latcrit@law.miami.edu](mailto:latcrit@law.miami.edu)) to discuss any questions you may have about us, our work, and our hopes – including the two new ones geared toward new and junior faculty.

**January 2-6, 2004:** Chronologically, the first of these two events is the “Welcome Reception and Discussion Session for New and Junior Faculty” held in the LatCrit-at-AALS Community Suite during the annual meeting of the Association of American Law Schools (AALS) each January (this academic year, the AALS meeting takes place on January 2-6, 2004 in Atlanta). This Welcome Reception and Discussion Session combines social interaction with substantive discussion of basic pointers on teaching, scholarship and “collegiality” that are on the minds of new faculty each year. This mid-academic year event allows new and junior faculty to raise questions in a safe space based on the first semester’s experience before the second semester commences. It is a wonderful opportunity both to connect with experienced folks as well as to have some fun! Don’t miss this opportunity – make a note to join us in Atlanta for this event.

This mid-year event also takes place as part of the “Suite Events” that we organize for the LatCrit-at-AALS Community Suite. The LatCrit Suite Events include informational meetings, receptions and parties. In early December, we will send you an invitation to our Suite Events, along with the Calendar of Suite Events, so that you can plan ahead and join us in all of the activities of your choice ... look for our Suite Events invitation and calendar in early December (via mail and/or email), and make your advance plans to join us in Atlanta for as many of the Suite Events as interest you ... and feel free to bring a friend along!

**April 29-May 4, 2004:** The second of these events is the LatCrit-SALT Faculty Development Workshop, which we inaugurated last year in conjunction with the Society of American Law Teachers (SALT) to provide support to new law professors such as you. The LatCrit community conducts this Faculty Development Workshop during the day-and-a-half before the annual LatCrit conference begins in full (this year, April 29-May 4, 2004 in Philadelphia). This sequencing allows new folks to meet “veterans” in a relatively intimate, focused and informal setting tailored to the concerns and interests of new and junior faculty leading up to the conference program. And the end-of-year timing of this Conference and

Workshop enables new faculty to reflect on their first year in its entirety with a friendly community of diverse folks, as well as to launch their first summer with confidence (see immediately below). Look for the conference Call for Papers & Panels later this month, and make sure to return your response by the October due date so that we can reserve a slot in the program for you.

The annual LatCrit conferences meet every spring semester on or about the Cinco de Mayo weekend and during this upcoming academic year, the Eighth Annual LatCrit Conference (LatCrit VIII) will convene at Villanova University School of Law in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on April 29-May 4, 2004. We hope you will “save this date” on your calendar and plan NOW to join us then. Importantly, the paper you present at the conference (if you choose to present a paper) is eligible for publication in the conference symposium to be published by the Villanova Law Review – this conference-based symposium is an important opportunity to publish your first piece as a tenure-track law professor in your first year of teaching. But don’t feel pressured if you want simply to attend the conference and meet folks; whatever your preference, we hope you will join us for LatCrit VIII at the end of this year.

In addition, we invite and urge you to become involved with one or more of the collaborative projects that the LatCrit community has undertaken in recent years, as reflected in the enclosed brochure. As you will note, the enclosed brochure on “*LatCrit Theory, Praxis and Community: An Introduction and Invitation*” provides an Overview of Highlights briefly describing the LatCrit community as well as a Summary of the LatCrit Portfolio of Projects, which includes the Student Scholar Mentoring Program, the Colloquium on International and Comparative Law, the Critical Global Classroom Study-Abroad Program, and a host of other collective projects outlined in the brochure through which we work to advance our social justice antisubordination aims. To provide a bit more background about ourselves, we have enclosed a copy of our LatCrit E-Letter, an electronic newsletter that we circulate via email at the beginning of every semester, and that will give you a sense of some recent or forthcoming LatCrit events. For more information on our Portfolio of Projects or recent/forthcoming activities, please visit our newly-redesigned website at [WWW.LATCRIT.ORG](http://WWW.LATCRIT.ORG). As you become more familiar with us and with the legal academy as a whole, we invite and hope that you make the LatCrit community your professional network and intellectual home in the coming years.

We look forward to crossing paths soon and often – especially at the annual LatCrit conferences and related events, all of which are designed to provide you and other scholars with professional and publishing opportunities. Remember to check out our website and contact us directly via email to stay abreast of developments and upcoming events. If we can help you succeed in this profession in any way during the coming weeks or months, please let us know. Otherwise, please take a moment now to read through the enclosed brochure – and then look in your mail for our follow-up LatCrit mailings and emailings!