Extension of the Dream

The Mijares family represents two generations of LMU. Raul ’74 earned his psychology degree and had a multifaceted career. Sara ’03 earned her accounting degree and has built a distinguished career in the industry.

RAUL, HOW DID YOU FIND LMU?

In my senior year [at Serra High School in Gardena] I had a $900 College Opportunity Grant. I was following in the footsteps of my cronies; I was going to go to Harbor College for a couple of years and then bounce to Long Beach State, and see what was up. One of the guys in our rock 'n' roll band was a Loyola graduate, and one day he took me to Loyola — he told me they were looking for students. I filled out all the forms, I was accepted; it was like a divine intervention and I wound up there.

RAUL, AFTER YOU GRADUATED, YOU BROUGHT YOUR CHILDREN TO LMU TO SHOW THEM AROUND; DID YOU INTEND TO INFLUENCE SARA TO ATTEND YOUR ALMA MATER?

In retrospect, that was the dream being planted. I took her there to fall in love with the place, with the energy that comes from our ancestors. There’s spirituality in every step you take there, if you’re open to it. That’s what I found at Loyola; I found my growth spirit.

SARA, WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO ESTABLISH THE SARA MIJARES-DEL FIUM SCHOLARSHIP FOR LATINO ACCOUNTING MAJORS?

When my dad went to Loyola it was with financial aid, and 20 years later I show up and the only way I could attend is with financial aid. Cal Grant was about half of the tuition then, and I got a LAA scholarship, and a Kilp-McKay Scholarship for kids of alumni, and a couple of other things and work study. And I had three to five jobs, on campus and off campus, every semester to make up the difference. I have to continue to pay it forward to get education to the people. There are brilliant, smart people out there who started out with a different lot in life, or have had obstacles.

In Native American tribes, particularly the Iroquois tribe, they talk about the impact of seven generations. What you do today will have an impact in seven generations. I talked with my husband and we decided it was time to put some money out there. What I’d like to do is set an example for the accountants to come,
THE LAA SCHOLARSHIP

Thank you to the following corporate sponsors for their support of the LAA Scholarship.

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The Year in Review:

35th Annual LAA Scholarship Awards Dinner, November 2016: The Latino Alumni Association celebrated and recognized scholarship recipients and the following esteemed honorees: City National Bank, Corporate Honoree for Service in the Community; QueensCare, Community Service Honoree; Gerald Salseda ’82, Alumni Role Model; and Kendra Glenn ’17, the Donald P. Merrifield, S.J. Scholarship recipient.

LAA Mixer, January 2017: LAA welcomed more than 80 alumni and current students to this annual mixer where they had the opportunity to network and receive insightful career advice.

LAA Scholarship Selection Committee, March 2017: Latino alums convened at LMU on a Saturday morning to review and evaluate the LAA Scholarship applications for fall 2017. Coffee and pastries are a must!

Día De Reconocimiento, April 2017: Latino senior students have the opportunity to recognize and thank family members for support through their educational journey.

Commencement, May 2017: A little rain drizzle couldn’t dampen the smiles and joy of our students or their families. Welcome to the Latino Alumni Association!
that “you didn’t get there by yourself.” When you get there, you’ve got to give it; what you’re capable of giving, you’ve got to give it. Your success came about because of others’ sacrifice; now you can do the same thing. And accountants make some money, so we’re trying to get as many accountants as we can.

**SINCE YOUR STUDENT DAYS, YOU HAVE BEEN CONTINUOUSLY INVOLVED IN LAA; WHAT KEEPS YOU CONNECTED?**

**Raul:** What keeps me connected is that spirit that comes from the ground. That’s a sacred piece of land; that’s a Chumash burial ground. At this point in life, you understand, you are whatever you are … all of us are indigenous Americans, we’re Native Americans … so it’s a calling from the land. We also have to share our knowledge as it evolves.

**Sara:** The Jesuits did a good job of talking about being men and women for others. That approach to life, that philosophy continues to resonate with me to this day. When I go there, I feel like home, I feel like grounded there.

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**Message from the Director**

Graduates like Raul and Sara, live the mission of being men and women for others by giving back so that current and future Latino students can access an LMU education. The Latino Alumni Association serves Latino students through need-based scholarship assistance, helping them thrive at LMU and beyond. Your investment, which is augmented by a 2:1 match, is crucial to LAA’s success. Please consider making a gift or establishing a named scholarship to support the next generation of Latino innovators, educators, scientists, and artists. There are many ways to get involved, please contact me for more information on how you can be a part of LAA’s effort.

**Stay Connected**

Phone: 310.338.7529  
Email: laa@lmu.edu  
Web: www.lmu.edu/laa  
Facebook: LMU Latino Alumni Association  
Instagram: LMU Latino Alumni Association

Elizabeth Gomez  
Director of Development  
Latino Alumni Association & Scholarship Initiatives  
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**LAA Update: Let’s Talk Numbers**

80 LAA Scholarship Recipients in 2016-17  
2:1 University Match on LAA Scholarships Awarded  
66% of LAA Scholars are First Generation to Attend College

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**$5.5 MILLION AWARDED IN LAA SCHOLARSHIPS SINCE 1981**

**LAA SCHOLARS BY COLLEGE/SCHOOL**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College/School</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bellarmine College of Liberal Arts</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frank R. Seaver College of Science and Engineering</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Business Administration</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Communication and Fine Arts</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School of Film and Television</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**2016-2017 NAMED ANNUAL AND ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS**

- Anatolia Etcheverry de Gaviña Annual Scholarship
- Angela Atiáno Annual Scholarship
- Celia Margaret Gonzales Torres Memorial Endowed Scholarship
- David and Christina Moreno Family Annual Scholarship
- Donald and Michele Alvarado Family Annual Scholarship
- Dr. Graciela Limón Annual Scholarship
- Edison International Annual Scholarship
- Professor Jesus L. Legaspi Annual Scholarship
- LMU Latino Alumni Association Annual Scholarship
- LMU Latino Alumni Association Endowed Scholarship
- Marcela Escobar-Alava Annual Scholarship
- Rose Acosta Yonai and John Yonai Annual Scholarship
- Salinas Family Annual Scholarship
- Sara Mijares Del Fium Annual Scholarship
- SOL Annual Scholarship
- Society for American Military Engineers – LA Post Annual Scholarship

**LAA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS 2016–2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Academic Awards Convocation
  - Sophia Bruza ’17, Program Scholar for Film and Television Production

- Student Service & Leadership Awards
  - Isaac Cardenas ’20, Peg Dolan, R.S.H.M. Award
  - Alejandro Vasquez ’20, Peg Dolan, R.S.H.M. Award
  - Maria Jose Gomez ’22, Alfred Kilp, S.J. Award
  - Christopher Reynoso ’18, Alfred Kilp, S.J. Award
  - Eric Hernandez ’17, James Loughran, S.J. Award

- Honor Societies
  - Kendra Glenn ’17, Alpha Sigma Nu
  - Mariana Ugalde ’17, Alpha Sigma Nu
  - Vivian Gaitan ’17, Alpha Kappa Delta
  - Leslie Ortega ’17, Kappa Delta Pi
  - Adrian Rodriguez ’17, Tau Beta Pi

- Graduates with Honors
  - Magna Cum Laude
    - Mariana Ugalde ’17
  - Leslie Ortega ’17, Liberal Studies
  - Michelle Simon ’17, Liberal Studies

- Graduates with Honors
  - Summa Cum Laude
    - Sophia Bruza ’17, Liberal Studies
Save the Date for the 36th Annual Latino Alumni Association Scholarship Awards Dinner

THURSDAY, NOV. 16, 2017
THE CENTER AT CATHEDRAL PLAZA, CATHEDRAL OF OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS

Among the 2017 LMU LAA Esteemed Honorees Are

COMMUNITY SERVICE HONOREE
CONSULATE GENERAL OF MEXICO IN LOS ANGELES

ALUMNI ROLE MODEL AWARD
JOSÉ DE JESÚS LEGASPI ’74
PRESIDENT, THE LEGASPI COMPANY

DONALD P. MERRIFIELD, S.J. SCHOLAR
NICOLAS BRECEDA ’18
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING