

**Latin American and Latino Studies (LALS)  
Undergraduate Advisory Board  
Overview**

**What is the LALS UAB?**

The LALS Undergraduate Advisory Board (UAB) is a selective group of undergraduates deeply committed to the study, advancement, and promotion of Latin American and Latino Studies on campus and beyond. Each academic year, the UAB spearheads two large events (one during Hispanic Heritage Month from mid-September to mid-October, and one during Festival Latinx, generally in the third week of February) that aim to inform, engage, and heighten interest in important issues pertaining to Latin America and the Latinx Community. In addition, the UAB shares insights and advice with faculty and staff about curriculum, course offerings, and general programming.

An example of past events organized by the LALS UAB include:

- “*Latinos and the 2016 Presidential Election*,” a roundtable discussion followed by a debate watch party that was held in October 2016. The event featured Dr. Michael-Jones Correa, Professor of Political Science, Philadelphia Councilwoman Maria D. Quiñones-Sánchez; Alexa Salas, Penn undergraduate and Executive Chair of Voto Latino at Penn; and Obed Arango Hisijira, Founder and Executive Director of CCATE. The UAB collaborated with students from the Latin American Graduate and Professional Student Assembly (LAGAPSA), and Voto Latino.
- “*Nuestro Éxito: Life Stories of Latinx Professionals*.” This was an event held in February 2016 as part of Festival Latinx. Attendance was robust, as many students, faculty, staff, and community members gathered to learn about the riveting life stories of local Latinx role-models, including Dr. Amada Armenta, Assistant Professor of Sociology; Javier Suárez, President of the Association of Latino Professionals for America (ALPHA) and Executive Producer of the Hispanic Choice Awards; and Kareli Lizarraga, Associate Director of La Casa Latina. The UAB collaborated with the Festival Latinx organizing committee and the Latinx Coalition.
- “*Zapata Vive, La Lucha Sigue: Legacies of the Zapatist Revolution on the Americas’ Indigenous and Communal Movements*.” This was a lively roundtable discussion held in September 2017 in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. Participants included: Jennifer Ponce de León, Assistant Professor of English at the University of Pennsylvania and Affiliated Professor with Latin American and Latino Studies; Perla Lara, a journalist and activist; Special Reporter with *El Sol*; Obed Arango Hisijira, Founder and Director of the Centro de Cultura, Arte, Trabajo y Educación (CCATE); and Holly Link, PhD, Director of Educational Programming and Research at CCATE. This event was co-sponsored by the Alice Paul Center for Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies. The UAB worked closely with LALS Director, Tulia Falleti, and LALS Associate Director, Cathy Bartch, in organizing this event.

The well-attended UAB events have been participatory, intellectually stimulating, and successful at raising awareness about important topics pertaining to Latin America and Latinos in the US.

### **Why apply to become a member of the LALS UAB?**

As an undergraduate advisory board member for LALS, you will be instrumental in shaping the LALS curriculum, charting the trajectory of the program, and increasing awareness of Latin American and Latino studies among the student body. As a board member, you will have opportunities to meet one-on-one with many of the LALS guests, including distinguished and renowned scholars, diplomats, artists, and journalists. You will also receive guidance, mentorship, and general support from LALS leadership and faculty, including the Director and Associate Director. Overall, the UAB is critical to the current programming and the growing stature of Latin American and Latino Studies on the Penn campus. You can influence LALS' historical legacy at Penn!

### **What is the time commitment?**

The UAB meets once or twice a semester with the LALS Director and Associate Director. In addition, to the meetings, the UAB members help with the organization, planning, and setting up of the two main events for the year. UAB members are required to serve a full academic year, and it is highly desired (but not required) that students serve multiple years.

During 2018-2019, the UAB will be highly involved in LALS' 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (scheduled for Spring 2019), which promises to be a rewarding, reflective, fun, and definitely memorable experience.

Interested in becoming a LALS UAB member? Please write to Catherine Bartch at [bartch@upenn.edu](mailto:bartch@upenn.edu).