



LDHH Insider

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

NOVEMBER 2007

From the President's Desk

Hola miembros,

Hopefully, this newsletter finds you rested and well. First of all, I am certainly proud of the LDHHAMDC members who helped to prepare the SER National Conference last month. Our committees worked hard weekends to take care of tasks. I am especially grateful to our co-chairs, *Leticia Arellano* and *Elvia Guillermo* who worked hard with us. Some of the conference attendees told me that they wanted to applaud you and were very impressed with your hard work.

The SER conference:

1. Pre-Conference Training: Youth and adult participants were trained by respected Deaf Latino leaders, *Dr. Angel Ramos*, *Susan González, Esq.*, and *Ms. Melissa Draganac-Hawk*. 2. Reception "Salsa Lesson": We kicked off the conference on Thursday with an opening reception and a salsa lesson by the special deaf group, Deaf Sabor. 3. Latino Cuisine: It was unbelievable! On Friday night; we enjoyed different dishes from the Dominica Republic, Colombia, Mexico, and Peru. 4. Señorita Latina Pageant: Four beautiful and brave Latina

women (*Maria Castaneda*, *Racquel Mazique*, *Nelky Perez*, and *Rita Torres* 'LDHH member') competed. The winner was Señorita Racquel Mazique from Chicago, Illinois. 5. Latino Soccer Tournament: 4 teams from Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, and Peru competed, and the Peruvian team won the championship. 5. Gala Night: Colorful room and colorful and cultural clothes! Deaf Sabor presented 6 dances. *Susan Gonzalez, Esq.* gave a keynote speech. To sum it up, I feel that the SER conference was productive and successful, and I can't imagine how we could have succeeded without the help of the committees and co-chairs.

Secondly, I thank Dr. Angel Ramos who came on September 22nd and gave a presentation to our organization. He shared his experiences growing up in NYC with his mother. He emphasized how he had struggled but never gave up. Also, he mentioned "*it is a precious and important time to contribute to your own community*". We certainly thank him for giving his time and sharing his life experience with us.

Finally, we have a new

adventure for our organization. We will have our own relay service! We contracted and became affiliated with the CSDVRS because they want to see our organization grow strong! We have a logo for our organization, SERVRS, and the tagline is "*Libre al Comunicar para SER.*" After Dec. 10th you can use servrs.tv on your videophone, and it automatically connects you with a Spanish operator. SERVRS donates some money to our organization. Keep tuned for more information.

Please feel free to contact me, or the other LDHH officers, we will be there for you.



Events:
LDHHAMDC's
General Meeting
11/16/07 at
Gallaudet
University
6:30pm

LDHHAMDC's
Annual Holiday
Party to be
announced!

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First Annual Deaf Friendship Indoor Soccer Tournament 11/17/07

For the past 5 years, Franklin Torres has always wanted to have a deaf indoor soccer tourney on the East coast. Since there was not a tourney happening, Franklin decided the LDHHAMDC will plant the seed first by hosting the First Annual Deaf Friendship Indoor Soccer Tournament in Jessup, Maryland. The tournament is a wonderful way of welcoming every-

one and having fun. Hopefully the deaf soccer teams on the West coast will be encouraged to host a regional tournament as well. This could result in having a national deaf soccer tournament! Hopefully by the end of this First Annual Deaf Friendship Indoor Soccer Tournament, a deaf soccer team from a different city will volunteer to

host the next annual tournament.

Sponsored by Viable and Sprint Relay, the First Annual Deaf Friendship Indoor Soccer Tournament will be at the Soccerdome in Jessup, Maryland on November 17, 2007 from 8am -6pm.

SER National Conference



**NCHDHH/
LDHAMDC's SER
First National Confer-
ence was a success!**

*"Latino Cuisine
confirmed that I
am here at a
Latino conference
because of our
same love for the
food!"*
—Melissa
Draganc-Hawk



At Chevy's on Oct 3, 2007

Summer and Fall 2007:

Toward the end of the Hispanic Heritage Month, LDHAMDC was busily giving on a huge show at the NCHDHH's first national conference at Gallaudet University's Kellogg Conference Center!

In the last issue of the LDHH Insider, Leticia Arellano gave the LDHH members a report on the SER progress. By mid-September, the conference chairs were concerned about the relatively low number of registrants.

There were murmurings of a hotel penalty in case the blocks were not filled up. There were discussions on quantities of supplies and numbers of printed materials to order. There were multiple last-minute committee meetings and countless late night discussions.

However, as it neared October, the number of registrations unexpectedly soared! Which led to a scrambling of ordering additional supplies and printed materials. The hotel penalty worry

fell from the agenda. There were numerous last-minute preparations for the workshops and sponsors. Committees and conference chairs worked tirelessly throughout nights to get ready for the best conference for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Latino/Hispanic people! Approx. 190 people registered and 240 attended the Gala.

In 3 short days, we had workshops, panel presentations, chats, and meals. Several people shared their SER experiences below.

Mayra Castro:

On the Registration and Decoration committees for the NCHDHH's SER national conference, Mayra dedicated her time to the SER conference despite living in Philadelphia, a two and half hour drive from D.C.!



The most enjoyable aspect about being involved in the conference preparation was meeting new people and having a chance to identify more closely with her Cuban identity. She was seen with a constant smile throughout the entire registration period and the Gala. Thank you, Mayra, for your hard "SER" work!

Gloria Pagán:

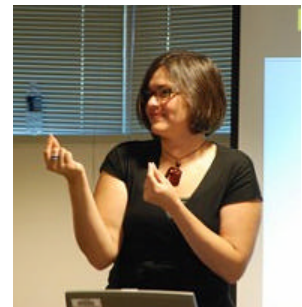
A high school science teacher from Oregon School for the Deaf and the sole OSD Latina staff, Gloria gave 2 top reasons for attending the SER conference:

- 1) Socializing/networking with Latino peers and
- 2) Discussing my "missing" identity.

At SER, she was pleasantly surprised to see the preconference leadership training being provided for the youth, and she thought about her own students at OSD. They rarely see Latino role models in their community. With that thought planted, she aims to return to OSD and hopefully disseminate the "SER" effect to OSD's Latino students by establishing a Hispanic club. Thank you for helping inspiring Latino youth!

Melissa Dragnac-Hawk:

The Executive Director of Deaf Women United, Melissa was a part of the preconf-



ference leadership training institute for the youth. She also presented a workshop about Deaf Latina Women and various leadership styles. Her most inspiring moment during the entire SER conference was, she remarked with a smile, "Latino cuisine Gabriel Arellano." "Latino cuisine confirmed that I am here at a Latino conference because of the same love for the food!" Thank you to Gabriel for a wonderful cooking show!



Washington, D.C. October 3-6, 2007

CSUN

Janette Duran, a senior and a child development major from California State University, Northridge, talked with the LDHH Insider.



Why did you come here?

I wanted to learn about Hispanic people's struggles and experiences. I also wanted to meet successful Latino people! I was also curious about the differences between Hispanic and Latino.

What was your favorite moment?

The Gala! I had so much fun dancing!

Marcos Aguilar, a CSUN junior and religious studies major, joined Janette during the interview.

Why did you want to attend the SER conference?

I wanted to experience different Latino cultures and learn about similar/different issues faced by us. I also wanted to see what you (NCHDHH/LDHHAMDC) provided because this is the first national Deaf Latino conference. I enjoyed meeting new leaders.

Your favorite conference experience?

The Gala because it was fun seeing different cultural outfits, the funny Mistress of Ceremony, and entertainment.

The Gala was wonderful

"because it was fun

seeing different cultural

outfits, the funny Mistress

of Ceremony, and

entertainment."

—Marcos Aguilar

RIT/NTID

RIT/NTID students and Hispanic Deaf Club representatives emailed the LDHH Insider and shared their thoughts on the conference.

1) What truly hit you that you were indeed a Latino-a/Hispanic during the conference?

Many things hit me during the conference. I developed more pride as a deaf Hispanic woman. One thing that shocked me the most is the amount of Hispanic deaf people, especially Peruvian deaf people.
—Sheila Silva

2) What will you bring back to NTID/RIT community from this conference?

I will bring back the power of and the knowledge of Hispanic Deaf Latina to RIT/NTID
—Laura Parra

3) What did you benefit from attending the first national conference for the Deaf Latinos?

How I benefited from attending the first national conference for Deaf Latinos was meeting new people and to see other Latinos' perspectives. I felt it really benefited me, and I will bring

different perspectives to RIT community.

—Lisa Velez
HDC President



Gallaudet

Joel Garcia, the Vice President of Gallaudet University's Latino Student Union, discussed the conference with the LDHH Insider.

What did you enjoy learning the most during the conference?

I really enjoyed the Latino/Hispanic Identity workshop and wished it could have continue more longer.

What were other parts you enjoyed?

It was wonderful being involved with

selling refreshments at the LSU booth during the soccer tourney! It was a lot of fun. The tourney was successful, and I am proud of that.

Racquel Mazique, the current Senorita crowned at the SER conference and a Gallaudet University student studying Education and English, shared her favorite moment during the conference.



What was your favorite part of the conference?

The pageant of course. It was a good experience meeting new Latina Deaf women and making new friends. I also felt very inspired by Chicago's support as there were many Chicagoans in attendance at the conference.

Any Comments?

I really wanted to learn more about Latino/Hispanic Identity and Deaf Latina Women's leadership. I am motivated now to learn more!

NCHDHH's National Conference in Chicago 2009

Illinois Deaf Latino Association won the bid to host the next NCHDHH's national conference in 2009. Carmen Aguilar, the president and founder of the IDLA (e. 1998), shared her ideas for the next conference:

- 1) Youth sports in addition to the soccer tourney
- 2) Dancing lessons every evening
- 3) Tour of Chicago's Latino History.

Wow, that sounds very exciting, Carmen!

What did you enjoy the most about the SER conference?

I really enjoyed the Latino/Hispanic Identity and the Hearing/White Privilege workshops! I really learned a lot from them.

Any comments?

I can not believe you (LDHH) pulled this conference off in 6 months and succeeded! I am truly impressed with LDHH and am very inspired.



Current Members of the IDLA

"I can not believe you (LDHH) pulled this conference in 6 months...I am truly impressed...very inspired."

—Carmen Aguilar

Donalda Ammons, a Spanish professor at Gallaudet University:

In your experiences of attending many conferences over the years, what was different about the SER conference?

"As you already know I have attended many different conferences nationally and internationally, the SER conference was truly unique in its own style and form. It was exciting to witness a large number of the Deaf



Latino's subgroups participating in the conference, where they were able to share various experiences and perspectives. For

some, it was an awakening for them, reclaiming their heritage with much pride. In a way, they felt they were at last allowed to be Latino/a in the public."

"...they felt they were at last allowed to be Latino/a in the public!"

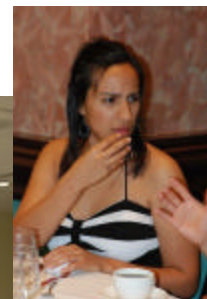
—Donalda Ammons

A Glance at Latino News on 11/16/2007

- Democrats cowed by GOP scare tactics on immigrants
- Jewish group bands with Latinos against discrimination
- National organizations unite to engage new Hispanic voters
- Study finds brutal, corrupt police patrol black, Latino neighborhoods
- Latinos and African-Americans live longer with Alzheimer's disease
- Mexican landslide toll rises to 14
- Telemundo Launches Bilingual Rival to Leno, Letterman
- Fewer illegal residents apply for home loans
- Simple steps would close racial gap, educator says

For those articles, visit My Latino News at <http://www.mylatinonews.com/>

SER National Conference's Picture Gallery



For more pictures, see the slideshows at www.ldhhamdc.org!

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JOIN LDHAMDC!

[www.ldhhamdc.org/
membership.htm](http://www.ldhhamdc.org/membership.htm)

WHO WE ARE

We, a group of Latino Deaf and Hard of Hearing persons, want to see our people have equal rights and access to succeed in the Metropolitan Washington (District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia) area. This organization is affiliated with National Council of Hispano Deaf and Hard of Hearing. (NCHDHH).

OUR VISION

The Latino Deaf and Hard of Hearing Association of the Metropolitan Washington DC Chapter envisions communities where people of all backgrounds, beliefs, and experiences work together, and share responsibility for improving our own lives and the lives of those around us.



First Annual Deaf Friendship Indoor Soccer Tournament

Continued from page 1

Premier Field # 1		1st Half	2nd Half	Arena Field # 2	
H	vs G	8:30 - 8:54	8:57 - 9:21	D	vs C
A	vs B	9:24 - 9:48	9:51 - 10:15	E	vs F
H	vs F	10:18 - 10:42	10:45 - 11:09	A	vs D
E	vs G	11:12 - 11:36	11:39 - 12:03	C	vs B
LUNCH		LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	
C	vs A	1:00 - 1:24	1:27 - 1:51	H	vs E
D	vs B	1:54 - 2:18	2:21 - 2:45	G	vs F
PLAYOFF	PLAYOFF	PLAYOFF	PLAYOFF	PLAYOFF	PLAYOFF
A1st place vs	B2nd place	3:00 - 3:30	3:35 - 4:05	B1st place vs	A2nd place
		4:10 - 4:40	4:45 - 5:15	Men's 3rd/4th Place	
Men's Champion		4:30 - 5:00	5:05 - 5:35		

Group A Men's	Name
Team A	NYC
Team B	International B
Team C	Deaf Peruvian Soccer Club
Team D	ELISO

Group B Men's	Name
Team E	International A
Team F	New Jersey
Team G	MUFC
Team H	9/11 of NY

- Eight deaf soccer teams are scheduled to participate in the first annual soccer tournament. The teams are:
- 1) International - Chicago "A" (Chicago)
 - 2) International - Chicago "B" (Chicago)
 - 3) HAWKS of New Jersey Club (New Jersey)
 - 4) Deaf Peruvian Soccer Club (DC/MD/VA)
 - 5) English Language Institute Student Organization (ELISO, Gallaudet University)
 - 6) New York City (NY)

- 7) 9/11 of New York (NY)
- 8) Maryland United Football Club (MD).

Good luck to everyone and have a safe and enjoyable soccer tournament!



Mystery Person of the Quarter

1. I really love my country's food but I also like Greek, Italian, French, and American food.
2. I hate dancing.
3. I was the president of the deaf club in my country.



It is Victor Minaya!

#2 is not true as he loves dancing!

Now guess who is the next mystery person of the quarter!

There are 2 true things and 1 false thing about me:

1. I have 2 lovely children.
2. I used to be a globetrotting chef.
3. I enjoy photography.

Who am I? Email norma.moran@ldhhamdc.org