Ohio State Hosts 2013 MALCS Summer Institute

On July 17-20, 2013, The Ohio State University hosted over 200 scholars for the 2013 MALCS: Mujeres Activas en Letras y Cambio Social (Women Active in Letters and Social Change) Summer Institute. Co-sponsored by the College of Arts and Sciences and the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, the Institute offers a place to share ideas, network, and present work in its early stages for discussion and development. Bringing the Institute to Ohio State was culmination of work done by Theresa Delgadillo, assistant professor in the Department of Comparative Studies, and Yolanda Zepeda, assistant provost in the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, and was only the third time in its 30-year history that the Institute has been located in the Midwest.

The theme of the Institute, “¡Aquí Estamos!/We Are Here!: Movements, Migrations, Pilgrimage and Belonging,” was a fitting one for Ohio, which was once home to the Shawnee, Delaware and Miami people. The 2013 MALCS Summer Institute was a time for reflection on “histories and heritages of belonging, indigenous roots, and contemporary pathways” and for answering questions such as, “Why are we here?” and “Where are we going?” The conference featured presentations and cultural performances by Chicana, Latina, and Native American women undergraduate, graduate and faculty researchers; skills building and professionalization workshops; community organizing workshops; film screenings; and plenary presentations. Panel discussions were as varied as “Latina Student Activism,” “Racialized Bodies,” “Queer Chicana Feminism,” “Transnationalism,” and “Applying to Graduate School.” Plenary topics included “On the Declaration of Rights of Indigenous Peoples,” “Latinas and our Language(s),” and “Chicana and Latina Activism in the Midwest.” Speakers and panelists included Professors Lilia Fernandez, Ohio State; Lourdes Torres from...
DePaul University; Ana Celia Zentella from the University of California, San Diego; Kimberly Blaeser of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; and Chief Glenna Wallace of the Eastern Shawnee Nation. The 2013 Tortuga Awards were presented to Professor Norma Cantu, University of Missouri, for her professional accomplishments and Masami Smith of the Native American Indian Center of Central Ohio and Centro Esperanza’s Gianella Martinez for their work in the Central Ohio community.

To watch a video of Dr. Rusty Barceló, President of Northern New Mexico, talking about educational leadership and commenting on the Latina presence at Ohio State, click here.

To watch a video of Dr. Norma Cantu, University of Missouri-Kansas City and recipient of 2013 MALCS Tortuga award, talking about education and challenges faced by Latinas (in Spanish), click here.

Both videos were recorded at the 2013 Summer Institute at Ohio State.

MALCS was formed in 1982 at the University of California, Davis and was created to support, educate and disseminate knowledge about Chicana/Latina and Native American women’s, and trans and gender non-conforming people’s issues. Besides hosting a summer research institute, MALCS publishes a newsletter, and the Journal of Chicana/Latina Studies. For more information about MALCS, click here.

Photos by Emily Strouse.