

# National Convention 2007

Seattle, WA | "Sisterhood of the Traveling Moon"



*Lambda Theta Alpha*  
*Latin Sorority, Inc.*



**June 29—July 1, 2007**

**Marriot Sea Tac Airport Hotel**



[www.LambdaLady.org](http://www.LambdaLady.org)

The purpose of Lambda Theta Alpha shall be to provide a sisterhood based on Unity, Love, & Respect.  
To develop strong Leaders who will then provide and practice political, social and cultural activities.  
To promote Latino Unity through charitable and educational programs.  
To maintain a high standard of learning and serve as a voice for all Latino students.

**Welcome**

Dear Sisters,

Welcome to the annual National Convention of Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority, Incorporated! We hope that you will take full advantage to learn, ask questions and BOND with your fellow Sisters this weekend.

We'd like to send a huge THANK YOU to our National Director of Public Relations, Farrah Irving-Wilkins, who could not be present, for her hard work in coordinating this Convention. In addition, we'd like to thank and recognize the fabulous Convention Committee, especially Lambda Theta Alumnae Chapter! These ladies started making plans for this convention last year. They put together a wonderful proposal and have worked tirelessly ever since to bring you an amazing experience in the Emerald City.

Mariela Salcedo

Stephany Silva

Elizabeth Tovar

Arlana Angel

Angelica Gutierrez

Ruth Gonzalez

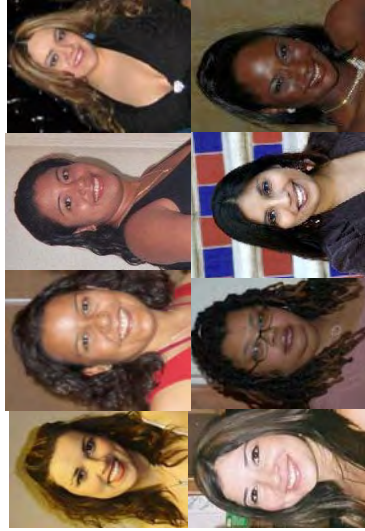
Melinda Lopez

Alicia Medina

Yasmin Barrios

Dee Dee Navarro

Marian Enriquez



**With Unity, Love and Respect,**

*Cynthia, Maria, Emeli, Karen, Caroline, Farrah, Ashley and Valerie*

**National Board of Directors**

**2006-08**

*Lourdes Cortes*

*Dr. Sylvia Feliciano*

*Emilia Herrera (Heredia)*

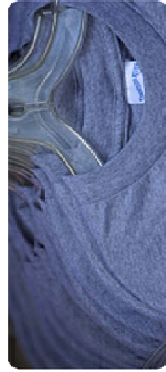
*Melanie Rosado*

*Alyssa Estevez*



**In Loving Memory ...**

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## Schedule

Donate toiletries for women with HIV and AIDS as part of the official Convention Community Service for BABES Network!

*Just look for the marked boxes all weekend long.*

Check them out at [www.babesnetwork.org](http://www.babesnetwork.org)

### Thursday

**June 28, 2007**

- 10 a.m. Sight seeing with Seattle Sisters
- 3 p.m. LTA Sisters Picnic at Gas Works Park
- 9 p.m. Convention Party at Tabella's

### Friday

**June 29, 2007**

- 5- 7 p.m. Registration (Seattle Ballroom, Salons 2 & 3)
- 6 – 8 p.m. Fundraising Expo (Washington Ballroom, Salons A & B)
- 7:15 – 8:30 p.m. Opening Reception (Washington Ballroom, Salons A & B)
- 8:45 p.m. Opening Ceremony & National Board Meeting (Evergreen Ballroom Salon I & II)

**Schedule**

**Saturday  
June 30, 2007**

- 7:30 – 8:30 a.m. Breakfast
- 8:45 – 9:15 a.m. Morning Welcome & Ice Breakers
- 9:15 – 10:00 a.m. Keynote Address  
*(1st three activities in Evergreen Ballroom Salon F,G,H)*
- 10:00 – 10:15 a.m. Passing Break
- 10:15 – 11:00 a.m. *Session I*  
AEB Training Session
  - presented by NBDs  
*(AS-Meeting Suite 1*
  - AAS-Meeting Suite 2*
  - AFS-Meeting Suite 3*
  - AOS-Meeting Salon C)*
  - Multiple Myeloma
    - presented by Denise Vidot  
*(Salon B)*
  - Behavioral Interviewing
    - presented by Claritza Reyes  
*(Salon C)*
  - Pave the Way Foundation
    - presented by Alumnae Association  
*(Salon D)*
  - Alum/Grad Training Session
    - presented by NAEB  
*(Salon E)*



2006 NALFO Organization of the Year  
La Unidad Latina congratulates

Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority, Inc.  
the national leadership, chapters, and Sisters across the country  
for their

2007 National Convention  
Seattle, WA



## Sponsors

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The views expressed at this program are not necessarily those of the Ethnic Cultural Center/Theatre, Office of Minority Affairs and Diversity, and the Services and Activities Fee Committee.



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## Saturday June 30, 2007 (continued)

11:00 – 11:15 a.m. Passing Break

11:15 – 12 Noon

### Session II

AEB Training Session

– presented by NBDs

Alum/Grad Training Session

– presented by NAEB

“This is Who We Are:”

Strategies for Presenting your Organization to Diverse Audiences in a Higher Education Institution.

– presented by Wilfredo

Alvarez (*Salon B*)

Congressional Hispanic

Caucus Institute (CHCI)

– presented by Marian

Enriquez (*Salon C*)

Programming 101

– presented by Laura Yamin

(*Salon D*)

Passing Break

12 – 12:15 p.m.

Lunch (*Evergreen Ballroom*)

12:15 – 1:30 p.m.

History Workshop

– presented by Nikki Frazier

(*Washington Ballroom for next two events*)

1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

3:45 – 5 p.m.

Anti-Hazing Workshop

– presented by

Sara L. Jahansouz



## Schedule

- Saturday  
June 30, 2007  
(continued)**  
5:15 – 6:30 p.m. Dinner and Entertainment  
(*Evergreen Ballroom*)
- 6:45 – 8:45 p.m. "Yo Soy Latina"  
(*Remaining events for Saturday in Washington Ballroom*)
- 9:00 – 10 p.m. Town Hall Meeting
- 10 pm. – Until Annual Stroll/Salute Exhibition
- Sunday  
July 1, 2007**  
7:30 – 8:30 a.m. Breakfast  
(*All Sunday events in Evergreen Ballroom*)
- 8:30 – 9 a.m. Welcome
- 9 – 10 a.m. Divide & Conquer  
- presented by Karen Castro
- 10 – 11:30 a.m. The Purpose of Lambda Theta Alpha  
- presented by Cynthia Ibarra
- 11:30 – 12 Noon Closing

## Did You Know?

The Greek office at the University of Miami has awarded Beta Sigma with the Outstanding Programming award for four consecutive years!

The National Executive Vice-President, Maria Genao-Homs, works for a nationally syndicated talk show!

Sarah Bernal of Nu Chapter graduated with honors from Officer Candidate School within the NJ ARMY National Guard and received her commission as 1st Lieutenant!

Cara Hewitt Grant of Upsilon was selected to speak on television with a congresswoman from Texas on children's health!

Three Beta Delta Chapter Sisters were once again elected onto the Cultural Greek Council at Cal State Long Beach. The ladies hold three out of the eight positions and LTA is the only org that has more than one of its members on the board!

Epsilon won eight honors at its Greek Awards celebration including the Chapter of Excellence Award - Category 1 Ranking!

Octavia Donnelly of Gamma Alpha was the chapter's fifth Sister to be named Outstanding Chapter President of the Year. In addition, Gamma Alpha's Catrina Garland was named the University of Virginia's UVA Idol!

Magda Benavides was awarded a Research Intern position on the Avian Malaria project at the University of Hawaii!

LTA's "Unofficial" Stroll Team won First Place at the SILK Stroll Show at Florida International University.

Chi Chapter's president, Lola Bovell won the Undergraduate Campus Leadership Excellence award at the NALFO Convention!

Send your bragging rights to [nbds@LambdaLady.org](mailto:nbds@LambdaLady.org)

## Speaker Biographies

**Laura Yamin** was born and raised in San Juan, Puerto Rico. She became a member of Lambda Theta Alpha in the Fall of 2006 for Alpha Epsilon Graduate Chapter- New York. She is currently serving as vice-president of her chapter. Ms. Yamin received a Bachelor of Arts in History and International Relations from Syracuse University in 2003. She served as as National Association Student Personnel Administrator (NASPA) Minority Undergraduate Fellow, where she attended their Leadership Institute at Duke University and served as New Student Programs intern at Texas A&M University in Spring 2002. Ms. Yamin received a Master's of Arts in Higher Education Administration from the University of Maryland- College Park in 2006. At the University of Maryland, she worked as the Graduate Coordinator for Latino Student Involvement and Advocacy. In this role, she advised 12 Latino/a student organizations, including Lambda Theta Alpha- Upsilon Chapter; she taught a 3 credit Latino Leadership course and she helped coordinate the planning of 2 Hispanic Heritage Months. In addition, Ms. Yamin has worked in a variety of roles such as House Director for Kappa Alpha Sorority- Alpha Rho chapter, Greek Life and Leadership development internship at the University of Missouri. She currently works at New York University as Coordinator of Transfer and Transitioning Student Services. Laura is a directorate member of American College Personnel Association Commission for Commuter Students and Adult Learners.

Looking to develop innovative educational and Latina/o cultural programs for your campus community, but the chapter funds are low and the debts are high? During "Programming 101", you will learn how to develop excellent programming using zero to no money while still making an impact on campus and the surrounding community. The presenter will share programming tools, ways to overcome common obstacles and a list of best practices that you can bring back to your chapter.

## Speaker Biographies

**Wilfredo Alvarez** is a PhD student and Graduate Teaching Assistant in the Department of Communication at the University of Colorado. Mr. Alvarez has an MS in Human Communication from Florida State University, and a BS in Professional & Technical Communication from the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT). Mr. Alvarez teaches courses in Human Communication and Public Speaking. His research and teaching interests are in the areas of interpersonal, group, and organizational communication. During his tenure at RIT, Mr. Alvarez joined Lambda Alpha Upsilon Fraternity, Inc. He has held positions at the undergraduate level as well as the national level as an alumnus. This experience enhanced the presenter's leadership skills and opened numerous doors to engage in public communication with varied audiences in the context of a higher education institution.

**Karen A. Castro** has been a Sister of Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority Inc. since Spring 2001. Ms. Castro is an alumna from San Diego State University, with a BS in Criminal Justice and minor in Mexican American Border Studies. She is currently attending her last semester of Graduate School at Rutgers University, where she will obtain a Master's in Social Work with an emphasis in Children and Families. Ms. Castro has worked with adolescents and families since 1997 through the San Diego Juvenile Probation Department and Department of Family and Children, Los Angeles. She is currently a Clinician at Trinitas Hospital where she works with juvenile offenders in an outpatient program, many victims of child abuse. Ms. Castro is a survival victim of physical, mental, and sexual abuse. The objective of Ms. Castro's workshop is to familiarize patterns of behaviors associated with child abuse (physical, mental, and sexual), substance-related abuse, and domestic violence in childhood and adolescent years. Often times these behaviors sequel into our adulthood causing strain and a repeated cycle of abuse in woman, spouses or friends. In the emerging years this behavior is often seen in college years with binge drinking and substance abuse, sexual acting out, social groups, and hazing.

## Speaker Biographies

**Marian Enriquez** joined our sisterhood in the Spring of 2000 as a Founding Sister of Beta Pi Chapter at Eastern Michigan University where she served as the first-ever Chapter President. She also served as Area Orientation Supervisor for MIA1 and Area Supervisor for MDA1. In 2004 she was elected National Director of Expansion where she created the National Recruitment Committee (NRC). Currently, she serves as the Alumnae Association's Co-Chair and continues to be a part of the NRC and the 2007 Convention Committee. As a professional, Ms. Enriquez was the Manager for Strategic Alliances and Events at the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute where she focused on event management as well as fundraising. She is now currently Manager for the Event Planning Department for the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, D.C. Ms. Enriquez will be presenting a workshop on the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute and on *Pave the Way* Foundation. The Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI) has 30 years of history in developing the next generation of Latino leaders. In this workshop we will showcase CHCI's extraordinary Public Policy Fellowship, Congressional Internship, and Scholarship Program all dedicated to Latino students. In addition, we will discuss how fellowship, internship, and scholarship experiences can assist you later in your educational and professional careers. Please note all our participants come from all over the nation with a diversity of backgrounds, majors, career focus, and more. For more information please visit [www.chci.org](http://www.chci.org)

**Nikki Frazier** is a proud Sister of Gamma Chapter and an active advocate of LTA. She graduated with a BA in Psychology from the Trenton State College (today known as the College of New Jersey). Ms. Frazier is working as a Residential Therapist for Children's Home of Burlington County in New Jersey. Ms. Frazier has held positions such as: Chapter President, Chapter Vice-President, Assistant Pledge Mistress, and Chapter Treasurer. At the National Level she has held consecutive positions as Treasurer for four years (i.e. NDF), Pledge Mistress for four years (i.e. NDO), and Area Orientation Supervisor of NJSA3 for three years. She's committed to keeping our sisterhood alive and the continued education of our Sisters.

## Speaker Biographies

**Blanca Torres** joined LTA in Spring of 2001 as a Founding Sister of Gamma Beta Chapter at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN. Ms. Torres earned a B.A. in English in 2003 and is a retail and consumer issues reporter for *The Contra Costa Times*. She is originally from Pasco, WA. She has continuously served as Treasurer of the Alumnae Association since 2004 and has held positions as National Alumnae Financial Advisor and Area Orientation Supervisor for California North Area One.

Ms. Torres and Ms. Marian Enriquez will be presenting the *Pave the Way* Foundation workshop. The workshop will PTWF's mission and ways to use the foundation as a monetary and services resource. One of the most vital aspects of the workshop will be to train Sisters on how to submit grant proposals for their chapters and areas. This would include what types of events the foundation funds, the paperwork/proposal process you must go through to request funding and most importantly how to get your grant approved!

**Denise Vidot** is the eldest of seven children and first to attend college. Ms. Vidot is very family- and goal- oriented. She currently attends the University of Miami, majoring in Biology and English-Creative Writing with minors in Chemistry and Business Administration. On July 12, 2004 her father was diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma. Since then, she has refused to watch him get sick. Ms. Vidot started off by raising awareness with mini-weeks on campus. In addition, \$3,000 was raised on October 15, 2005 during the FIRST walk for Myeloma of its kind in Florida. Ms. Vidot started a non-profit organization geared toward student advocacy for Myeloma- The Vidot Student Myeloma Foundation (VSMF) named after my father. Ms. Vidot became a Sister at Beta Sigma Chapter at the University of Miami in Spring 2004. She was recognized as the 2006 National Undergraduate Sister of the Year.

The purpose of Ms. Vidot's workshop is to inspire at least one person to make a difference by spreading awareness of Multiple Myeloma-an incurable and often misdiagnosed cancer that affects African Americans and Latinos more than anyone else. It will also give information on how to start a chapter of the VSMF at your school.



## Speaker Biographies

**Linda Nieves-Powell** is the founder and president of Latino Flavored Productions Inc., a multimedia entertainment production company she founded in 1995. The company has successfully produced theatrical productions at over 100 top-ranked colleges and universities and many sold out performances on Off-Broadway and corporate diversity programs. She is also the owner and President of StatenIslandLatino.com, a central place for news and entertainment on Staten Island. Named "**Mas Que Belleza**" by *People en Espanol* and selected as one of the 100 Most Influential Hispanics by *Hispanic Business* magazine, writer, director, producer **Linda Nieves-Powell** was also awarded the 2005 Imagen Award for her empowering play *YO SOY LATINA!* and the 2005 Comite Noviembre award.

**Claritza Reyes** is an alumna of Epsilon Chapter at Rutgers University-New Brunswick. She became a member in the Spring of 1997. As an undergraduate, she held the positions of Chapter Social Chair, Orientation Advisor and President. Upon graduation, she served as the Area Supervisor for New Jersey North Area 1 from 2000-2001. Ms. Reyes was one of the sisters that assisted in the establishment of Lambda Beta Alumnae Chapter in Fall of 2000, and has been an active member of the chapter since its inception. Most recently, she served as National Alumnae President. Ms. Reyes is a graduate of Rutgers University-New Brunswick with a degree in Communication and Spanish. She has a Master's in Labor and Employment Relations and is pursuing a second master in Human Resource Management, both from Rutgers' School of Management and Labor Relations. She is employed by a global pharmaceutical company in its Global Staffing Department.

Ms. Reyes proposed the topic of behavioral and structured interviewing for our orientees because of the high risk issues involved with orientation. She feels that if we can better assess our potential members, we can make more educated decisions as to who we allow to undergo our process. Furthermore, it will allow us to target certain behaviors we are seeking in our future sisters, such as interpersonal savvy, perseverance and commitment, to name a few.

## Speaker Biographies

**Grissel Granados** was born in Mexico City one month premature due to her mother getting toxemia while pregnant. Her mother had to have an emergency cesarean section and lost a lot of blood, causing her to need a blood transfusion. The blood that was given to her was infected with the HIV virus and Ms. Granados was infected with the virus. Ms. Granados' family lived without any idea that that they were infected for five years. Ms. Granados' father ended up dying from AIDS, and soon Ms. Granados, her mother and sister moved to the United States. Later, Ms. Granados was diagnosed with cancer. Ms. Granados has been speaking to audiences about her experiences since age 12. She has made it her mission to educate others on prevention and the importance of treating others with HIV and AIDS with sensitivity and compassion.

**Sara L. Jahnsouz** is the Co-Founder of Millennial Leadership Consulting, LLC and serves as the Director of Greek Life at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. Ms. Jahnsouz is a proud member of Sigma Kappa Sorority and serves the Association of Fraternity Advisors as the Committee Chair on Assessment. She is a graduate of Kansas State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Life Science and a graduate of the highly ranked Higher Education Administration Master's program of Indiana University. Sara's research interests include Middle Eastern Identity Development and Values-Based Decision Making Models within the Cognitive Development of College Students. Sara enjoys a good cup of coffee, weekends at the beach, and learning from others.

The Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority, Inc. Anti-Hazing Symposium will focus on the application of the Call for Values Congruence in the treatment of new members. The educational program is designed to apply the values of LTA within daily practices of its members as it applies to the fraternal values movement.