

## MIT Diversity Story Timeline Milestones – Latino

1890 – Sophia Gregoria Hayden Bennett becomes the first female to earn the S.B. in Architecture from MIT in 1890. Possibly the first student of Latin American origins to graduate from MIT (her mother was Chilean). (Source: LAMIT)

1910 – MIT Club of Mexico founded

Oct/Nov 1913 – Club Latino founded; officially known as “Club Latino-Americano de MIT.” Goal is to “[keep] in friendly touch with each other all the Latin-Americans of Technology [MIT] and [foster] mutually beneficial relations between them as individuals and as representatives of their several nationalities.” (source: The Tech 11/18/13 <http://tech.mit.edu/V33/PDF/N79.pdf>)

1916 – First three Puerto Rican students enroll at MIT (class of 1920). (Source: LAMIT)

Early 1960s – Puerto Rican alumni fund construction of Sala de Puerto Rico in Stratton Student Center. 100% alumni participation (source: Resolutions of the Corporation of the MIT on the dath of Luis Alberto Ferre (Class of 1924)

1975 – Lydia Villa-Komaroff among first Hispanic women at MIT. Received the PhD in 1975 in Life Sciences. Served as Whitehead Institute’s Vice President for Research and Chief Operating Officer (2003-2007?). In 2003 named among 100 Most Influential Hispanics in America (Sources: AMITA Centennial timeline: <http://alumweb.mit.edu/groups/amita.old/esr/centennial.html>; Whitehead Institute News Archives: [http://wi.mit.edu/news/archives/2003/wi\\_1016.html](http://wi.mit.edu/news/archives/2003/wi_1016.html))



(Image from *MIT – A Place for Women* – brochure by Ad Hoc Committee on Role of Women, 1973)

1979 – Spanish House (La Casa) founded. “Established to provide an environment to practice Spanish and to allow residents to develop an appreciation of the Hispanic cultures. The ability to speak Spanish was not required.” (Source: Final Report of the HSG Committee of Cultural/Theme Houses at MIT 11/07/06, <http://web.mit.edu/ua/senate/Bennie/Speaker%20Steve%20Kelch/Senate/Reports/Institute/Theme-based%20Housing%20Final%20Report.doc>)

1981 – Association of Puerto Rican Students (APR) established (Source: The Tech 02/11/03)  
<http://tech.mit.edu/V123/N3/timeline.3f.html>

1986 – La Union Chicana Por Aztlan (LuCHA) established (Source: The Tech 02/11/03)  
<http://tech.mit.edu/V123/N3/timeline.3f.html>

Summer 1989 – LAMITA (Latino Association of MIT Alumni/ae) established. The organization's objectives are to serve as a vehicle for service to the Latino community, particularly in promoting science and math education in local school systems, and to serve as a voice within MIT for Latino concerns. Executive Board FY89-90: Victor Quintana '83 (Executive Director), Philip Sanchez '85, (Director), Rosalina Hernandez-Brown, '83 (Director), Leonardo Salazar '91 (Director), Eduardo Grado '83, (MIT Liaison, Assoc. Dir. of Admissions) (source: MIT Alumni Office)

1992 – MIT admits five students from Ysleta High School, located in a poorer section of El Paso, Texas, remarkable for any public school, but even more remarkable because they are all Mexican American. (article: <http://bit.ly/bDrGfx> [http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=m9kgAAAIBAJ&sjid=LWsFAAAAIBAJ&pg=5219%2C2388713])

1997 – The Society of Mexican American Engineers and Scientists established (Source: The Tech 02/11/03) <http://tech.mit.edu/V123/N3/timeline.3f.html>

2001 – Latina Interview Project directed by Lecturer in Foreign Languages and Literatures, Margarita Ribas-Groeger to document the experiences of Latina students at MIT. Results in film, *Nuestras Voces: Being Latina at MIT*, which premieres at the 30<sup>th</sup> New England Film and Video Festival in 2005. (Sources: Reports to the President 2001-2002; MIT Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures) Film is available here: <http://web.mit.edu/fli/www/projects/NuestrasVoces.shtml>

2001 – Teatro Latino founded by Ishani Das ('03). Goal is to “produce theatrical performances in the Spanish language by students who embrace theater and want to gain a higher appreciation of the Latin culture” (Source: Teatro Latino website: <http://web.mit.edu/teatro-latino/www/main.htm>)

2002 – Latino Lounge created in the Student Center to house and provide support for Latino Student Groups (source The Tech 02/11/03) <http://tech.mit.edu/V123/N3/timeline.3f.html>

Sep 2006 – LAMIT (Latino Alumni/ae of MIT) incorporated. [Photos at <http://alumweb.mit.edu/groups/lamit/BrowseWeb.do?webSiteId=SI000560&webPageId=P007&photoId=0>]

Some prominent Latino/Hispanic alumni/ae of MIT:

*Please note that this is a very incomplete list, hardly comprehensive of all of MIT's prominent Latino alums. Information courtesy of LAMIT (Latino Alumni/ae of MIT) and Institute Archives.*

Luis Ferre '24, SM '25, former governor of Puerto Rico

Rodolfo Eduardo Herrera Llerani, '38 possibly the first Hispanic MD at MGH

Virgilio Barco-Vargas, '43 President of Colombia (1986-1990)

In the late 1950's Cuban siblings Vilma and Ivan Espin Guillois both studied at MIT, Vilma in Chemical Engineering and Ivan in Architecture. Vilma is famous as the wife of Raul Castro, brother of Fidel.

Jorge Rodriguez '60 SB, '61 SM, '68 PhD, Entrepreneur, Lexington, MA; Bronze Beaver award recipient

Henry Cisneros, CP '74, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development under President Clinton, Past Mayor of San Antonio, currently chairman of Cityview

Lydia Villa-Komaroff, PhD '75. Served as Whitehead Institute's Vice President for Research and Chief Operating Officer (2003-2007). In 2003 named among 100 Most Influential Hispanics in America

Franklin Chang Diaz Ph.D. '77, first Hispanic-American in Space

Alex Padilla '94, California state senator

Joaquin Bacardi, GM '98, President and CEO of Bacardi Corporation in Puerto Rico