



**Annual Report**  
**2012**  
**University Sin Fronteras**  
*...A University without Walls and beyond Borders...*

**Annual Accomplishments:**

The present and outgoing Board of Directors (15) of the University Sin Fronteras has successfully founded UNSIF, organized the officers of the board, held two (2) strategic meetings to develop the vision and mission, and then to develop the Core Curriculum and the methodology. The board successfully navigated the UNSIF towards the implementation of the first Liberation Summer Semester in Atlanta under the auspices of Project South. The board also transitioned at the end of 2012, after a two year term, to the new incoming Board of Directors for 2013-14 term of service. Five (5) Board members were so inspired and committed they re-enlisted to continue to serve another 2 year term. This insures both continuity and also new blood in the mix; new thinking and ideas with the new board (9) members.

UNISF has now set up 10 campuses overall; four in operation, and 6 still to develop to the point of implementation. 2013 will serve to develop the campuses and the campus committees and therefore broaden the infrastructure and capacity of the UNSIF to put back Liberation into the social movements for systemic social change.

**Atlanta campus**

The Atlanta campus is by far the most advanced in practice-theory-practice in advancing University Sin Fronteras and Liberatory education. Atlanta is now the flagship campus for University Sin Fronteras and will assist in developing the other campuses.

Liberation Summer Semester-22 student participants successfully completed the course and received a Certificate of Completion'. Six (6) of the student participants formed the Campus Committee for Liberation Education in Atlanta as a result of the course.

Emancipation Autumn-19 student participants started and finished the course of which four (4) volunteered to join the Atlanta Campus Committee of Liberation Education. The Emancipation Autumn offered a course for four weeks with the fifth week class to do the collective synthesis of the course.

Partnership with Project South-The partnership has evolved in the course of the

Liberation Summer and the Emancipation Spring Semesters, making Atlanta and Project South a model of the process and development of the University Sin Fronteras.

Campus committee-Atlanta's Campus Committee has been active since the summer of 2012, and planned and executed the Emancipation Autumn there adding to their experience in organizing the courses, but this time also fitting in as faculty in a team teaching arrangement. The Campus committee has grown to ten (10) members plus the Co-Directors of Project South, Emery and Stephanie.

Southern Movements Alliance-Assembly in Lowndes County, Alabama was the first mass organizing and mobilizing space impacted by the partnership between UNSIF and PS. The political analysis coming from the assembly and the organizing of the Peoples' first 100 days of Action (starting Nov 7, a day after the Presidential elections). The Regeneration of the historical political and Black power movement in Lowndes county intersected with the power and right to vote and exercise the power.

The main offices of the University Sin Fronteras have now been established at Project South for the reason of the strengthened partnership, but also to further strengthen and integrate the processes in the social movements to decolonize! Ruben Solis, President of UNSIF will move to be housed in Atlanta at Project South as well as Project South serving as interim fiscal sponsor.

### **San Juan campus**

In *Viejo* San Juan, a colonial walled city for hundreds of years, Puerto Rico being the oldest colony now, under US control since 1898, University Sin Fronteras organized not only two of the Board of Directors' meetings here, and organized a three (3) week seminar on Art & Society. A dozen student participants took part in the seminar and four formed the Campus Committee now working to organize the Liberation Spring course in a community setting. The seminar was held at '*Casa Espacio Arana*' a local arts and cultural center directed and coordinated by Luis Melendez. The center has become the campus of the UNSIF for the last year. The campus committee has grown to six members now.

Reynaldo Padilla, the Vice President of the UNSIF has been active in the development and founding of UNSIF since 2009. Reynaldo coordinates the San Juan, Puerto Rico Campus that adds an international character to the UNSIF beyond borders. All of the Campus Committee in SJU are young people under 30 years. Relationships there include *Nuestra Escuela*, an alternative High School, *Nueva Escuela*, a grassroots political education school in the community for young activists, and the School of Social Work and the Institute for Public Policy as well as the University of the Barrio from the same school work together to implement a liberatory education.

Recently the SJU campus committee held a meeting and social at Reynaldo's and invited two young people to join and also to forge an alliance with the Center for Community Change (CCC) a local alternative and neutral space available to hold a course in the Liberation Spring Semester 2013. The space represents a more grassroots approach for the Campus committee and to work with even younger people.

Reynaldo Padilla and Nicole Soto Rodriguez have been anchoring the SJU campus with Reynaldo serving on the Board of Directors 2011-12 and now continuing in the second term of 2013-14. Reynaldo also serves as a faculty having shared a class in the Liberation Summer Semester in Atlanta, GA.

### **San Antonio campus**

The first step in the San Antonio Campus process was organizing a Liberation Seminar in the Liberation Summer Semester at the offices of *Fuerza Unida*, a local Working Women's organization. While 15 people participated in the seminar and about 5 organizations, no campus committee was organized. However, a study group book club formed and started reading four main books on the Tex-Mex Revolutions in South Texas and Northern Mexico between 1820 and 1920. Under the coordination of Chavel Lopez, Southwest Workers Union (SWU) the book club transformed into the San Antonio campus committee with six (6) people who organized it in late January 2013.

Chavel Lopez, now a new board member (2013-14) in UNSIF will continue to coordinate the SAT Campus committee and a meeting is set for Feb 19, 2013 to brainstorm and organize the Liberation Spring Semester course here. Additionally some six new persons have joined the SAT Campus committee. Lopez recently participated in the Atlanta meeting of the board of directors of UNSIF on Feb 1-2, 2013. Participating are Domestic Workers in action, the Youth Leadership Organization of SWU with Sandra Garcia, and several staff from SWU as well as *Fuerza Unida*.

### **Detroit campus**

The Detroit campus committee stands at ten people who have been meeting since October 2012, when Ruben Solis visited there and offered an orientation session on the nature of the University in Fronteras and about establishing a campus there. While the decision was affirmative to organize a campus there, the holidays have stopped the momentum. Elena Herreda from Detroit, long standing movement activist, leader, and educator as well as school board member is along with Fred Vitale, also longtime organizer are anchoring the Detroit campus.

The Detroit campus has already developed a 6 week course with 5 classes, and one last session as to synthesize the collective experience and shared knowledge. The plan is to start up the Liberation Spring semester in April through May. Detroit will be inviting Ruben Solis for the kick off. The campus committee in Detroit is inter-generational and diverse.

### **Tempe, AZ campus**

Manuel Pino, a professor at the Pima Community College near Tempe, Arizona is anchoring the campus there and planning to implement the first semester in the Freedom Summer semester 2013. The importance of this campus is that it is in 'Indian' country, Native American people and lands. It is also in Arizona, where racism has attacked migrant rights and public education, with the banned books, and ethnic studies programs. This is the ground zero of colonial domination and oppression.

Manuel Pino, is a longtime activist and is a leader in the Indigenous Environmental Network (IEN), and the Treaty Council, American Indian Movement, and works with the

Peace and Dignity run with late Gustavo Gutierrez, and with Tupac Enrique and *Tonatierra* organization of decolonization regarding the Doctrine of Discovery.

### **Washington DC campus**

Jenice View, teaches at George Mason University is coordinating the UNSIF campus in Washington DC. Jenice has served on the UNSIF board since 2011-12 term and has continued onto the second term of 2013-14. She is part of Teaching for change and part of the Macomb, MS civil rights history project. She is author of 'Putting back Civil Rights into the Movement'. Jenice will be working this Spring to bring together the campus committee and most likely develop a course for Freedom Summer 2013. Jenice has served as a board member of UNSIF and also as a faculty member sharing a class in the Liberation Summer Semester in Atlanta campus in 2012. She was called back as a faculty for the Emancipation Autumn semester again in the Atlanta campus. She focused on sharing teaching emancipatory education.

### **Minneapolis campus**

Rose Brewer a professor teaching at the University of Minnesota and a board member of UNSIF since 2011-12 term and continuing onto a second term 213-14, will be coordinating the Minneapolis campus. The plan calls for organizing and implementing a course or activity for the Freedom Summer Semester 2013. Rose has been a board member and a faculty for the UNSIF teaching one of the classes in the Atlanta Liberation Summer semester 2012. Rose focused on Trans-Atlantic Slave trade. Rose is also on the US Social Forum NPC.

### **Oakland campus**

The west coast campus in Oakland is planned to start up sometime in 2013. this is a new campus anchored by Lloyd S. and Karlos Schmieder. The area is prime for the establishing of the campus and the liberation courses. A first activity and meeting of the campus committee is planned for June 2013. The potential is great here.

### **Chicago campus**

The campus in the mid-west comes from the meeting and connection with Carolina ?, Marta Ayala and teresa Cordova. They are interested in working towards organizing the campus committee for Chicago. The plan is to visit Chicago sometime this Liberation Spring and start with a Decolonize seminar. The potential is great here.

### **Mexico DF (City) campus**

In Mexico DF (City) UNSIF has one board member and an alternate with a campus committee in formation of about six people committed to establishing the campus and the Liberation Spring course there. Plans are to visit Mexico City in May 2013 to organize the campus committee formally and to plan for the Freedom Summer Semester. Jose Jaques Medina, a long time activist and ex-legislator, together with Ivette L. are anchoring the campus in Mexico DF.

### **Board of Directors 2013-14**

Each board member has a role in anchoring their specific campus as part of being on the board of directors' duties. This is different than the first board where it was at-large

representation.

- |                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Reynaldo Padilla   | SJU campus            |
| 2. Stephanie Guilloud | Atlanta campus        |
| 3. Jenice View        | DC campus             |
| 4. Rose Brewer        | Minn. campus          |
| 5. Jerome Scott       | Atlanta campus        |
| 6. Elena Herreda      | Detroit campus        |
| 7. Chavel Lopez       | San Antonio campus    |
| 8. Manuel Pino        | Tempe, Arizona campus |
| 9. Ivette L/Pepe      | Mex DF campus         |

***up and coming:***

Lloyd S	(Oakland)
Carolina	(Chicago)

**University Sin Fronteras Board of Directors 2011-12**

1. Justo Mendez
2. Liliana C
3. Raul Q
4. Edwin Q
5. Doris P
6. Stephanie G
7. Jerome S
8. Rose B
9. Reynaldo P
10. Czerny B
11. Jill J
12. Jenice V
13. Victor R
14. Lori B
15. manuel P

**UNSIF Administration**

Executive Committee 2013-14 Ruben Solis, President; Reynaldo Padilla-Vice President, and Stephanie Guilloud, Secretary

Executive Committee 2011-12 Ruben Solis, president; Reynaldo Padill, Vice-president, and Czerny Brasuel, Secretary.

**UNSIF Staffing**

Ruben Solis (administrator)  
Reynaldo Padilla (communications)  
Jozan Powell (tech education)  
Jovan (Technical)  
Matias Trejo (Web master)  
Fe de Alba (graphic design)

**UNSIF Funding and finances**

Funding Exchange	\$4,000 grant for 3 years (2012-15)
Robby Rodriguez (Atlantic P)	\$2,500 grant to Ruben Solis
Donors	\$600-Chavel Lopez \$500-Jerome S \$400-Rose B \$400-Cita C \$195 (pass the hat foundation) 2.1.2013 \$500-Jenice V
Project South (Steph & Emery)	\$5,000
Southwest Workers Union	\$35,000 (ruben's 2012 salary)
Tuition	\$1,000

**UNSIF Budget 2013** \$195,000

### ***University Sin Fronteras***

#### ***Historical background***

The basis for an organization that promotes political education and popular education came immediately from the experiences of Southwest Workers Union (SWU) and Project South; The Institute for the Elimination of Poverty and Genocide, from implementing internal schools for leadership and organizer education and development. It stems also, from the historical experience of Liberation Schools of the 60's and 70's. *Colegio Jacinto Trevino* in the Rio Grande Valley, in Texas, *Escuela Tlatelolco* in Denver Colorado, DQ in Sacramento California, and many others. At one time a consortium of 23 Liberation Schools existed in the mid 70's. *Colegio Cesar Chavez* in Oregon, and Black Liberation schools in Baltimore Maryland, and in New York with the Young Lords.

#### ***Viejo San Juan***

The *tertulias* or roundtable discussions, held in Old San Juan, on a roof top patio, kicked off the most recent developments in thinking critically about the state of the social movements and recognizing the need for a systemic approach for political education and liberation. The Old San Juan round table (Wonderful Wednesdays) led to the planning for organizing the founding board of directors to establish the University Sin Fronteras (UNSIF). The Old San Juan process started in 2009, and the recruitment of the board members took place in 2010 and the founding meeting of the UNSIF took place in April 2011 in *Viejo San Juan*, Puerto Rico. The founding meeting of the Board of Directors defined the Vision and Mission for University Sin Fronteras.

#### **Founding**

In 2012 University Sin Fronteras saw the board establish the pedagogical 4 curriculum core areas [Colonialism & Liberation; Emancipatory Education; Capitalism & Globalization and, Self and Organizational Social Movement Development] for academic development, and the implementation during the Liberation Summer Semester in Atlanta, Georgia in partnership with Project South and in line with their youth work and the Building A Movement

Seminars held monthly and the Septima Clark Leadership Institute and the mid-nite school. During the Liberation Summer, UNSIF in a learning laboratory setting with Dr. Jozan Powell developed the methodological approach of OLE. O is for organization, deepening, expanding or growing organization; L for Liberatory Leadership development; and E for an emancipatory educational approach...pedagogy and methodology.

### **Liberation Summer Semester**

The practice-theory-practice came when UNSIF landed with Project South, the Liberation Summer Semester and thus the Atlanta campus was born, as was the concept of campuses. Twenty four student participants took part in the six-week course made up of six classes. Twenty two of the student participants finished the course successfully and received a certificate of completion. One student had a young child and a single mother who could not continue and the other was an out of state intern and had to go back home. The course was shared by 8 faculty members, including Stephanie Guilloud, Ruben Solis, Reynaldo Padilla, Jerome Scott and Rita Valenti, Rose Brewer, and Jenice View. The first class was on Colonialism & Liberation, body sovereignty and self determination, and what is colonialism and how do we decolonize? Followed by the second class on colonialism as in Puerto Rico as a classic case study, followed by Black-South Radical Tradition history looking at the South before it was the U.S., and then a team teaching on Gender, Class & invention of White. The fourth class the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade & Capitalism, then the fifth on emancipatory education. Two weeks after the end of the course, student participants met in an 'assembly' to come out with the written collective synthesis. Six student participants volunteered to work as the Atlanta Campus committee on Liberation Education. The six member campus committee met to brainstorm and develop the Emancipation Autumn (term developed by rasha) course and classes and faculty. Many of them participated this time as faculty in a team teaching method. The Liberation Summer Semester invented several new practices for UNSIF, one being taking notes at every class and sharing the notes with everyone. Cita Cook, retired professor, did all the note taking. The student participants were asked to answer a strategic question at the end of each class and write up a one page reflection paper. The notes and the reflection papers became part of the archival data accumulated by UNSIF. Video and audio was also done.

### **Emancipation Autumn**

Organized in Atlanta campus, the Emancipation Autumn had 19 student participants register and 17 finished the course completely. The course was on Action as an agent of social change. The classes were on The Black South radical tradition, Liberatory Leadership, Action for change, and emancipatory education. Notes were kept, one page reflection papers written for every class, and the collective synthesis was done at the end of the course. Four student participants joined the Atlanta campus Committee.

### **Faculty**

1. Reynaldo Padilla
2. Rose Brewer
3. Jerome Scott
4. Rita Valenti
5. Stephanie Guilloud
6. Emery Wright

7. Jenice View
8. Ruben Solis
9. Les E
10. Glory K
11. Angie W
12. Nicole Soto Rodriguez

## **Vision & Mission**

Knowledge is not the privilege nor domain of the powerful few but a right of all people. We envision education as a vehicle for social movement development, rather than a commodity to be bought, sold, or corrupted. People construct and carry knowledge in multiple ways. Emancipatory education is informed by the wisdom of our communities to which we are accountable and ensures continuity of histories, cultural traditions and legacies.

In order to achieve social and political impact for systemic change, our education systems will collectively create a cohesive analysis of the past, present, and future in order to direct and solidify social movement development. We envision education as a collective leadership development process between and among generations.

## **4 Core Curriculum areas**

- Emancipatory Education
- Self and organizational social movement development
- Colonialism & Liberation
- Capitalism & Globalization

## **OLE methodology**

- Organizational development
- Liberatory Leadership development
- Emancipatory education

## **Semester system**

- Liberation Spring
- Freedom Summer
- Emancipation Autumn

## **Accomplishments last Board meeting Feb1-2, 2013**

First Board of Directors meeting of the new Board of Directors and 3<sup>rd</sup> strategic board meeting  
Reinforced partnership with Project South  
Reinforced the Atlanta Campus UNSIF & PS and shared Atlanta experiences  
All Board members attended (Jenice could not make it)  
Identified the 3 semesters per annual academic year  
-Emancipation Autumn-Liberation Spring-Freedom Summer  
Identified the UNSIF campuses (Atlanta-flagship campus, San Juan and San Antonio operating) (DC, Detroit, Chicago, Oakland, Tempe-PHX, AZ, Mexico DF, Minneapolis)  
Defined Faculty  
Delineated history of University Sin Fronteras



Delineated how people got here to UNSIF  
24 people attended  
Notes taken by Cita (yay)  
Class on What is Community?  
One page reflection papers written  
7 month specific plan and timeline  
Bonding (building relationships) bet/ people  
Board meeting open for strategic planning (invited greater group)  
Agenda was viable and useful and had flow to it  
Food available & good and on time (volunteer force) (Glory)  
Packet of materials adequate and informative  
Reinforced the 4 C's (curriculum core areas)  
    Liberation & Colonialism  
    Emancipatory education  
    Self & Social Movement Organizational development  
    Capitalism & Globalization  
Reinforced OLE  
    Organizational development  
    Liberatory Leadership development  
    Emancipatory education  
Detroit and San Antonio Campuses getting Campus committee organized to start up in  
Liberation Spring Semester  
Arizona Campus (Tempe) to get up and going for Freedom Summer Semester  
All campuses are planning activity for FREEDOM SUMMER semester 2013  
Decolonize Movement (Seminar in AZ) (April 19)  
FMFP Conf Chicago (July)  
4<sup>th</sup> Strategic Board n]meeting UNSIF July 4-6, 2013 Atlanta GA  
New board (2<sup>nd</sup> generation) integrated into process  
Shared class methodology & pedagogy with all during Board meeting  
Agreed to Plan of Action 2013-14  
Developed glossary of common terms  
Liberation summer synthesis shared with all as well as Atlanta campus experiences  
Grid chart on plan and things to be done  
Donated 195.00 to UNSIF (pass the hat foundation)  
Report on finances  
Report on administrative plan  
Report on staffing  
Report on fund raising  
    -developing a donors educators list  
Report on accreditation process  
Report on non profit applications  
Report on web master/site  
Report on Technology education plan (Jozan)  
Great meeting place  
Airport pick up and drop off  
Solidarity housing  
Shared cooking (Reynaldo, Emery, Glory, Ruben etc)  
Radio Diaspora meeting & programming  
Palestinian seminar (Rasha)  
Met with Steph & Emery on ATL campus courses  
    -Blues & Music & Culture  
    -Theory & philosophy (day course staff)  
    -Youth philosophy course (projected)