

*iAdelante Tigres!*

## Plenary Session Speaker Biographies

### Christopher L. Eisgruber '83



Christopher L. Eisgruber has served as Princeton University's 20th president since July 2013. He is the Laurance S. Rockefeller Professor of Public Affairs in the Woodrow Wilson School and the University Center for Human Values. Before becoming president, he served as Princeton's provost from 2004-2013 and as director of Princeton's Program in Law and Public Affairs from 2001-2004. A renowned constitutional scholar, he is the author of *The Next Justice: Repairing the Supreme Court Appointments Process* (Princeton 2007), *Religious Freedom and the Constitution* (co-authored with Lawrence G. Sager, Harvard 2007), and *Constitutional Self-Government* (Harvard 2001), as well as numerous articles in books and academic journals. In 2014, he was elected to membership in the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Eisgruber served on the faculty of the New York University School of Law for eleven years before joining the Princeton faculty in 2001. Prior to his time at NYU, he clerked for Judge Patrick Higginbotham of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit and for Justice John Paul Stevens of the United States Supreme Court. Eisgruber received an A.B. *magna cum laude* in Physics from Princeton, an M. Litt. in Politics from Oxford University, and a J.D. from the University of Chicago Law School. His wife, Lori Martin, is a distinguished securities litigator with the law firm WilmerHale, and his son, Danny, attends the University of Chicago.



### **Eduardo Bhatia '86**



Eduardo Bhatia is a Puerto Rican politician and senator. He is the former president of the Senate of Puerto Rico (2013-2016) and is currently the minority leader. Bhatia was also chief of staff for Puerto Rico's Resident Commissioner in Congress in 1991 and a former Executive Director of the Puerto Rico Federal Affairs Administration (2005-2008). Most of his attention is currently devoted to reforming public education on the island; renewable (solar) energy and, of course, Puerto Rico's spiraling debt and fiscal crisis.

Bhatia attended Princeton University, obtaining his Bachelor's degree in 1986 in Government and Public Policy from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. Upon graduation he was awarded a Fulbright scholarship to Chile, where he volunteered for the Catholic Church's program to develop a democratic sanctuary for dissidents under the regime of military dictator Augusto Pinochet. He is a 1990 graduate of the Stanford Law School. While at Stanford, Bhatia was the co-founder and first editor of the Stanford Law and Policy Review. After graduating, he worked as Law Clerk for Judge Levin H. Campbell, at the United States First Circuit Court of Appeals.

Senator Bhatia has served as co-chair of the Eastern Regional Conference of the Council of State Governments and as a member of the Woodrow Wilson School Advisory Board. He was also elected as president of the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators (NHCSL), a national organization of over 400 Latinos in state legislatures, becoming the first Senate President to hold the title.

### **Harold A. Fernandez '89**



Harold A. Fernandez majored in molecular biology and was a recipient of the Moses Taylor Pyne Honor Prize. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa and Magna Cum Laude and was accepted into the highly selective Harvard Medical School—MIT program in health sciences and technology. After graduation from Harvard, he underwent training in general and cardiothoracic surgery at NYU Medical Center and Bellevue Hospital. During his career, Fernandez's main endeavors have been in vascular biology and molecular genetics. He has given many presentations at local and national meetings in both basic science and clinical topics related to vascular and cardiac biology and physiology. In addition he participates in numerous volunteer activities to improve the health of people in his community. Over the last two years, he has been active in reaching out to immigrant youth to promote the importance of



staying in school and the message that with faith, hard work, and sacrifice all your dreams are possible.

In his book, *Undocumented*, Fernandez tells of growing up in a poor neighborhood in Medellín, Colombia, being illegally smuggled into the United States by his parents, excelling in school, getting accepted into Princeton, seeing his undocumented alien status become known and then resolved with the help of U.S. politicians, attending Harvard Medical School, undergoing a residency program at New York's famous Bellevue Hospital, and embarking on a surgical career through which he gives back to society for all he has received. Beyond telling his own inspirational story, Fernandez puts a human face on the issue of immigration and reaffirms the American Dream of freedom, hard work, and success.

### **Nellie M. Gorbea '88**



Rhode Island Secretary of State Nellie M. Gorbea made history when she was sworn in on January 6, 2015, becoming the first Hispanic elected to statewide office in New England. She has rapidly emerged on the national scene as a leader who is taking on some of the toughest issues and getting results, leading the way for other states across the country.

Just two years into her first term, she has:

- Improved the elections system by acquiring new state-of-the-art voting machines thus ensuring that Rhode Island was one of the few states in the country to have new voting equipment at all polling places in the 2016 elections;
- Worked to increase civic engagement by instituting online voter registration and releasing an enhanced mobile voter information center “app” to better inform voters (at [Vote.RI.gov](http://Vote.RI.gov) or [Vota.RI.gov](http://Vota.RI.gov)) especially among the millennial generation;
- Ushered in tough legislation to increase government transparency, crack down on violations of lobbying rules and make Rhode Island's lobbying registration system a model for the nation;
- Launched a new online business portal to make it easier for entrepreneurs to start businesses in the state;



- Initiated the development of a new state archives and Rhode Island History Exhibition Center that will help Rhode Islanders further understand and appreciate their state's great history.

In recognition of her extraordinary leadership and achievements, she has been named co-chair of the National Association of Secretaries of State Business Services Committee, and is an Aspen Rodel Fellow and a Hunt Kean Fellow. She has also served as vice chair for the 2016 Democratic National Convention Platform Committee and Co-Chair of the National Association of Secretaries of States Voter Participation Committee.

Prior to her election as secretary of state, Gorbea headed a leading organization working to make housing affordable in Rhode Island, served as Deputy Secretary of State (2002 to 2006) and led the creation of the Rhode Island Latino Civic Fund. A few weeks after she handed in her senior thesis, Gorbea started what became the Association of Latino Princeton Alumni.

Over the past three decades she has served on a variety of Princeton alumni committees including the Executive Committee and the Planning and Review Committee of the Alumni Council, the National Schools Committee, the Princetoniana Committee as well as being a P-Rade Marshal.

Originally from Puerto Rico, Gorbea is a graduate of Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School for Public and International Affairs and proud member of the Great Class of 1988. Gorbea also holds a master's degree in public administration from Columbia University. She and her husband, Steve D'Hondt '90, and their three daughters live in North Kingstown, Rhode Island.

### **Yessica Martinez '15**



Yessica Martinez '15 was born in Medellin, Colombia and migrated to Queens, NY, with her family when she was ten years old. During her time at Princeton, she majored in Comparative Literature with certificates in Latin American studies and Creative Writing. She co-directed Princeton DREAM Team, helping to establish a scholarship program for undocumented youth and developing campaigns to release migrants from Elizabeth Detention Center. She was also a board member of the Latin American Legal Defense and Education Fund, a community organization dedicated to defending the rights of Latin Americans in the Mercer County area. Her junior year, she received the Alex Adam Award '07 to travel to the U.S-Mexico border and write poems for her creative thesis about the trials of migration



and her experiences as an undocumented migrant. Upon graduation, she received the Henry Richardson Labouisse '26 Prize and returned to her native country to lead poetry workshops and explore the arts as tools for community development. She currently works as a teaching artist in her neighborhood of Corona, Queens, as part of the Project 55 Fellowship and is fulfilling a writing residency at Immigrant Movement International. She received the 2015 Moses Taylor Pyne Honor Prize.

### **Douglas S. Massey \*78**



Douglas S. Massey is the Henry G. Bryant Professor of Sociology and Public Affairs at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. He is co-author of *American Apartheid* (Harvard University Press, 1993), which won the Distinguished Publication Award of the American Sociological Association. More recently he co-authored *Climbing Mount Laurel: The Struggle for Affordable Housing and Social Mobility in an American Suburb* (Princeton University Press, 2013), which won the Paul Davidoff Award from the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning. He is also co-author of *The Source of the River* (2003), the first analysis of minority achievement in selective colleges and universities based on a representative sample, as well as the follow up book *Taming the River* (2009), which examined the

determinants of persistence and grade achievement through the first two years of college (both from Princeton University Press). Massey has also published extensively on Mexican immigration, including the books *Return to Aztlan* (University of California Press, 1987) and *Miracles on the Border* (University of Arizona Press, 1995), which won a 1996 Southwest Book Award. His latest two books on immigration are *Beyond Smoke and Mirrors* (Russell Sage, 2002), which won the 2004 Otis Dudley Duncan Award for the best book in social demography, and *Brokered Boundaries: Constructing Immigrant Identity in Anti-Immigrant Times* (Russell Sage 2010). Massey has also served on the faculties of the University of Chicago where he directed its Latin American Studies Center and Population Research Center, and the University of Chicago, where he directed its Population Studies Center and chaired its Graduate Group in Demography. During 1979 and 1980 he undertook postdoctoral research at the University of California at Berkeley and Princeton University, where he received his Ph.D. in 1978. Massey is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the American Philosophical Society. He is past president of the Population Association of America, the American Sociological Association, and the American Academy of Political and Social Science.



### **Dan-El Padilla Peralta '06**



Born in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, Dan-el Padilla Peralta grew up undocumented and homeless in New York City. He studied Classics at Princeton University (AB summa cum laude), the University of Oxford (MPhil), and Stanford University (PhD). After a two-year postdoctoral stint at Columbia University's Society of Fellows, Dan-el returned to Princeton as an assistant professor in the Classics Department, where he works on the cultural and religious history of the Roman Republic and Empire and maintains an affiliation with the university's Program in Latino Studies; he was recently named a Faculty Fellow in Service and Civic Engagement. His 2015 memoir *Undocumented: A Dominican Boy's Odyssey from Homeless Shelter to Ivy League* (Penguin) received an Alex Award from the American Library Association. More recently, he has penned pieces for the Guardian, Matter, Vox, and the New York Times. He is now plugging away at a second book on the religious worlds of the Roman Republic (under contract with Princeton University Press); other projects in gestation include a co-edited volume on appropriation in Roman culture (forthcoming with Cambridge University Press), several article-length explorations of classical reception in the 19th and 20th-century Caribbean, and an investigation into forms of citizenship ancient and modern. A firm believer in the importance of humanistic learning to the promotion of social justice, Dan-el has taught in Columbia's Justice-in-Education Initiative and its Freedom and Citizenship Seminar. He also sits on the editorial board of the public-facing Classics journal *Eidolon*, to which he has contributed articles ranging from Greco-Roman reception in hip-hop to the interplay between ancient xenophobia and modern anti-immigrant politics.

### **José A. Quiñonez \*98**



José A. Quiñonez founded Mission Asset Fund (MAF) in 2007 and continues to drive its mission of providing pathways to prosperity for low-income communities. Under his leadership, MAF has become an award-winning organization with innovative models for bringing communities across the nation out of the financial shadows and into the financial mainstream. In 2016, José received a MacArthur "Genius" award for his vision and creativity as a financial services innovator.

MAF's pioneering Lending Circles programs have allowed over 7,000 people to build their credit scores and access zero-interest



loans to rent apartments, start businesses, and apply for citizenship. In 2014, José advocated for legislation that made California the first state to regulate and recognize credit-building loans as a powerful tool for change. José lived undocumented for much of his youth before gaining legal status through the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986. That experience shaped his lifelong commitment to breaking down the barriers that keep people from realizing their full potential. He currently serves on the Consumer Advisory Councils for Capital One, Experian, and the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco. From 2012 to 2014, he was the inaugural chair of the Consumer Advisory Board of the Consumer Finance Protection Bureau (CFPB).

José received a B.A. from the University of California at Davis and an M.P.A. from Princeton University.

### **Maribel Hernández Rivera \*10**



Maribel Hernández Rivera is executive director of Legal Initiatives at the New York City Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs and leads ActionNYC, a program that provides free and safe immigration legal services in trusted sites within the community across the five boroughs. She previously served as supervising attorney at Immigrant Justice Corps where she directly supervised Bureau of Immigration Appeals accredited representatives as they helped low-income New Yorkers apply for immigration benefits. Maribel is also a former Fried Frank/MALDEF fellow. As a fellow, she represented individuals in immigration detention, submitted an amicus brief to the Supreme Court in support of the U.S. government in the *Arizona v. United States* case, and participated in a group advocating for the representation of people in immigration detention.

Maribel received her J.D. from New York University School of Law, her Masters in Public Affairs from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University, and her A.B. from Harvard University. Upon law school graduation, Maribel served as law clerk to the Honorable Mary M. Schroeder in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.



## **Anthony D. Romero '87**



Anthony D. Romero is the executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union, the nation's premier defender of liberty and individual freedom. He took the helm of the organization just seven days before the September 11, 2001 attacks. Shortly afterward, the ACLU launched its national Keep America Safe and Free campaign to protect basic freedoms during a time of crisis, achieving court victories on the Patriot Act, uncovering thousands of pages of documents detailing the torture and abuse of detainees in U.S. custody, and filing the first successful legal challenge to the Bush administration's illegal NSA spying program.

Romero has also led the ACLU in its unique legal challenge to the patents held by a private company on the human genes associated with breast and ovarian cancer; in its landmark lawsuit challenging Arizona's anti-immigrant law that invites law enforcement to engage in racial profiling; in its high-profile litigation and lobbying efforts to win the freedom to marry for same-sex couples; and in its nationwide Campaign for Smart Justice, which aims to achieve a 50% reduction in the number of Americans behind bars.

An attorney with a history of public-interest activism, Romero has presided over the most successful membership growth in the ACLU's history and a large increase in national and affiliate staff. This extraordinary growth has allowed the ACLU to expand its nationwide litigation, lobbying, advocacy, and public education programs.

Romero is the ACLU's sixth executive director, and the first Latino and openly gay man to serve in that capacity. Born in New York City to parents who hailed from Puerto Rico, Romero was the first in his family to graduate from high school. He is a graduate of Stanford University Law School and Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public Policy and International Affairs.





## **Margarita Rosa '74**



Margarita Rosa is a lawyer and an organizational leader with experience in the government and nonprofit sectors. From 1995- 2015 Rosa was executive director of the Grand Street Settlement in NYC where she oversaw the delivery of early childhood education, after-school programs and supports for adults of all ages to more than 10,000 New Yorkers annually.

From 2015-2016 Margarita was executive director of the National Center for Law and Economic Justice.

Appointed by Governor Mario Cuomo, Rosa was the first Hispanic, the first woman and the youngest person to serve as the commissioner of the New York State Division of Human Rights. She has taught in Graduate Schools of Public Service/Public Affairs at Baruch College and at New York University, and at the Fordham Law School. Rosa has served on the board of directors of a number of not-for-profit organizations and as a member of several government commissions and task forces. Rosa graduated cum laude from Princeton, and attended Harvard Law School. She is also a trustee of Princeton University.

## **Sonia Sotomayor '76**



Sonia Sotomayor, associate justice, was born in Bronx, New York, on June 25, 1954. She earned a B.A. in 1976 from Princeton University, graduating summa cum laude and receiving the university's highest academic honor. In 1979, she earned a J.D. from Yale Law School where she served as an editor of the Yale Law Journal. She thereafter served as assistant district attorney in the New York County District Attorney's Office from 1979–1984. She then litigated international commercial matters in New York City at Pavia & Harcourt, where she was an associate and then partner from 1984–1992. In 1991, President George H.W. Bush nominated her to the U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York, and she served in that role from 1992–1998. She then served as a judge

on the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit from 1998–2009. President Barack Obama nominated her as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court on May 26, 2009, and she assumed this role August 8, 2009.